

# Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)

## *The Oregon Legislature's proven solution for housing stability*

Since 1999, the Legislature has consistently invested in the stability and prosperity of low-income Oregonians through the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. The state matches participants' own savings up to 5-to-1 to meet financial goals including homeownership.



Crystal Granger, Portland  
Education IDA

**The challenge:** Without Legislative action in 2024, the IDA initiative will enroll only 1,600 families this biennium – fewer than at any point in the past 12 years.

**The opportunity:** A \$10 million general fund investment will keep the program's service level consistent with recent years – empowering a total of 2,200 families across the state to invest in their own futures by enrolling in an IDA.

While over 20% of participants explicitly save for first-time homeownership, **all IDA savings create housing stability and resiliency for low-income families.** Crystal Granger (*above*) saved for higher education, which then made homeownership possible: **“The reason I’m able to make these mortgage payments is because I don’t have student debt, and it all goes back to the IDA program.”**

IDAs are administered by a network of more than 70 community-based organizations in all parts of the state. Since 1999, **Over 17,000 Oregonians, in 35 of Oregon’s 36 counties, have leveraged the power of their own savings for self-defined goals** – including homeownership, education, small businesses, vehicles and emergency savings. More than 2,600 people are currently saving through an IDA.

To date, \$36 million saved by IDA participants has been matched by \$68 million from the state, allocated from both tax credit proceeds and the general fund. **Without a general fund investment in 2024 the program will shrink, leaving providers unable to serve approximately 70% of the estimated current demand for IDAs.**



## IDA savings example

- Working with an IDA provider organization in their own community, a lifelong renter establishes an account and begins saving to purchase a home.
- The participant receives financial and homebuyer education, works to become mortgage-ready, and saves \$150 per month in their IDA.
- After reaching their \$2,000 savings goal, they receive a 5-to-1 match of \$10,000 – thanks to the Legislature’s investment in the IDA program.
- The saver applies the \$12,000 total to the down payment and closing costs, enabling them to move into their new home with an affordable mortgage – and a solid foundation for long-term housing stability.



## Who are IDA savers?

- \$13.8 million in matching funds was distributed in the last two years, with nearly half going to Black, Indigenous and People of Color participants.
- IDAs predominantly serve people with incomes below 80% of the area median.
- Over two-thirds of IDA savers are women (69%).
- 1 in 5 savers is between the ages of 12 and 24, and nearly half of education IDA savers are the first in their family to go to college.
- Nearly 1 in 4 savers was born outside of the U.S., representing more than 60 countries around the world.



Courtney Nolta and son, La Pine  
*Homeownership IDA*



Tanya Golden, North Plains  
*Small business IDA*



Jenifer Crow, Lyons  
*Vehicle purchase IDA*