

SB 918 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Anderson, Jama, Knopp, Patterson, Sollman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/29, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to establish Oregon Housing Justice Program (OHJP). Provides from General Fund for biennium beginning July 1, 2023, for specified homelessness and housing stability-related purposes and extending current agreements when feasible: \$100,000 in grants to culturally specific and culturally responsive organizations; \$14 million to Oregon Worker Relief; \$10.5 million to the Urban League of Portland; \$1.5 million to the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; and \$9.5 million to community action agencies. Permits OHCS, with approval of Oregon Housing Stability Council, to develop policy providing stipends to people with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability who provide solicited feedback and participate in shared decision making, in an effort to prioritize the experiences of individuals most impacted by OHCS programs and policies. Establishes allowable conditions of stipend.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Accountability and reporting requirements
- Interorganizational communication and collaboration
- Recommendations of HB 2100 Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Funding allocated to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) for eviction protection through Senate Bill 5561 (2021 Second Special Session) and for homelessness prevention through House Bill 5202 (2022) included engagement with culturally specific partners. Roughly \$26 million was granted to the Urban League of Portland (ULP), the Oregon Worker Relief Coalition (OWR), and the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). Community action agencies have supplemented programs such as the Emergency Housing Account and State Homeless Assistance Program.

ULP’s Project Empowerment provides culturally specific wrap-around services and focuses on African American populations with incomes at or below 80 percent of the area median income, and who have experience with the criminal justice system. OWR designed culturally responsive eviction intervention to engage immigrant community members at risk of housing instability. IRCO provides housing supports integrated with immigration-focused legal services and includes a Welcome Center in Malheur County in eastern Oregon. Together, these organizations’ programs include, but are not limited to, support for education, housing, health, career training, assistance for victims of domestic violence, and case management services.

Senate Bill 918 A directs OHCS to establish the Oregon Housing Justice Program, which provides a total of \$35.6 million to culturally specific and culturally responsive organizations for specified homelessness and housing

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stability related purposes. The measure allows OHCS to provide stipends to those affected by these issues and incorporate their feedback to help inform OHCS policies.