

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Department of Human Services Humanitarian Mission

To:	Ways and Means Full Committee
From:	Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative Valderrama

On February 5th, the Human Services Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Department of Human Services on its efforts to transition individuals and families seeking asylum in Oregon out of a state-funded temporary shelter and into longer-term community-based housing and supports.

In response to a growing number of individuals seeking asylum in Oregon, the Department established a temporary Welcome Center in Portland in November 2022 to provide shelter and food for individuals and families while connecting them with legal and other services. The 2023-25 adopted budget included \$20.9 million General Fund to continue the Welcome Center for nine months and support the transition of approximately 300 individuals into longer-term community-based housing with supportive services provided through a contract with Multnomah County.

The agency reports that as of December 31, 2023, the Welcome Center was no longer in operation, and Multnomah County had secured long-term housing and wraparound services through subcontracts with community-based organizations for most of the former Welcome Center residents. The agency also reports a continuing need for services, and a registry has been established to connect asylum seekers with community-based services.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval.