

FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot Supports Rent Assistance and Housing Stability Investments in SB 1530

February 13th, 2024

Chair Jama and members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee,

As we work towards new production goals and to address homelessness, we must ensure that we turn off the spigot to the street.

As our housing affordability crisis continues, more than 80% of all evictions happen because someone is behind on their rent. Each of these cases represents an Oregon household at risk of homelessness, and these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg – studies show that approximately five times the number of people in eviction court suffer displacement outside of Court.

Rent assistance is the single most effective tool at preventing eviction and homelessness—making sure that landlords get paid and tenants stay housed. While legislators made important investments in 2023 to address the housing crisis, rent assistance programs were inadequately funded and are likely to run out

Rent and other housing stability assistance programs by community-based and culturally-specific organizations and coalitions doing housing stability work are critical to reaching the Oregonians in every county in the state who are most vulnerable.

The legislature must fully fund the rental assistance and housing stability included in Fair Shot's People's Budget which has had a proven track record of keeping working Oregonians safe and stable. Altogether, this package calls for:

- \$45 million in rent assistance through community action agencies and community-based organizations.
- \$6.5 million to the Urban League of Oregon for culturally specific housing stability services.
- \$6 million to the Home Fund at Oregon Worker Relief for housing stability services for immigrant Oregonians.
- \$2 million for outreach services for residents of expiring affordable housing units.
- \$15 million for the Healthy Homes program that allocates funding to essential home repairs that keep seniors, low-income families, and frontline communities in their homes.

FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

Fair Shot for All is an economic justice coalition of grassroots organizations and labor unions across the state who work together to create opportunities for all working families to thrive, build power with our communities, and dismantle historic and systemic economic inequities in our state. We are organized across race, class, and gender and center those of us who have been impacted most: Oregonians who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and/or people of color; LGBTQ+; women; and/or working class families. There is incredible strength in our numbers and our fierce belief in the future we are fighting for.

OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

