



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

April 2, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court St NE, S-409  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Maintain funding for homelessness prevention and shelters**

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Northwest Pilot Project – a social service agency with over five decades of experience in providing housing stabilization services to low and very low-income older adults, age 55 and over, experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Multnomah County. As direct service providers, we frequently see the critical and transformative impacts of homelessness response and prevention dollars in our community, and yet we know that these programs must grow in order to meet the level of need and effectively stabilize housing for more low-income Oregonians.

Please maintain Oregon’s investments in homelessness prevention and homeless shelters, in line with Governor Kotek’s recommended budget:

**\$109.7M to prevent evictions and homelessness through emergency rental assistance to Oregon tenants**

Over 2,000 families face eviction proceedings every month, with evictions now one-third higher than pre-pandemic levels. With Oregon facing a 140,000-unit housing shortage, over 80% of evictions are because tenants cannot afford the ever-rising cost of rent. Emergency rent assistance for households facing eviction is a lifeline that prevents homelessness and creates stability for our neighbors and our communities.

**\$63.5M for essential homelessness prevention services across the state**

These funds support housing navigation, landlord-tenant education and outreach, legal services, eviction prevention, and rapid rehousing services.

**\$217.9M to maintain the statewide network of state-funded homeless shelters and rehousing services (HB 3644)**

Funding will keep shelters open for the next two years, and HB 3644 establishes a standing program that will coordinate shelter funding and strategy going forward.

Oregon's housing supply crisis will take years to resolve. In the meantime, low-income renters face the constant threat of losing their homes as rents continue to climb. Rent assistance, homelessness prevention services, and the shelter network must be part of Oregon's 2025-2027 budget, in order to maintain the homes, the stability, and the very lives of thousands of our neighbors who would otherwise face eviction and homelessness.

Sincerely,

Yoni Kahn  
Advocacy Director  
Northwest Pilot Project