



Budget for Shared Prosperity

For ten years, our coalition has united around one shared vision: to create an Oregon where everyone has a fair shot – no matter their race, gender, or background. Our state budget should reflect this by investing in housing stability, health care access, worker protections, and immigrant justice to strengthen our communities.

This is our moment to lead with courage and build the future every Oregonian deserves: fair wages, affordable housing, quality healthcare, and basic dignity for all.

Prevent Harm Before It Happens

The co-chairs' budget framework shows Oregon can maintain critical programs and even build on them. Right now, Oregon's economy is strong and we have healthy reserves.

While there is uncertainty at the federal level, we learned in previous recessions that austerity worsens the pain—especially for BIPOC, immigrant, LGBTQ+, low-income, and rural communities. Delaying investing in vital services has a compounding negative impact on local economies and health outcomes.

Smart investments now prevent costly crises later

With so many Oregonians struggling to afford housing and food, and some communities being targeted for exclusion at the federal level, it is important that we make strategic investments to strengthen families, workers, and local economies now. That's how we make our state more resilient in the face of future challenges.

When we fund emergency rent assistance, behavioral health care, worker protections, language access, and legal representation, we strengthen families and save resources in the long run.

Fair Shot Budget Priorities

The 2025 Fair Shot Agenda prioritizes community-led initiatives addressing real, immediate needs. They were developed by the people most impacted and offer proven, cost-effective approaches to our state's challenges.

Oregon's budget is a moral document that should reflect our values. When times are tough, we help our neighbors. By fully funding the Fair Shot priorities, we protect families and communities while building a resilient economy for all.

Immigrant Justice Package

- **\$15M for Universal Representation (HB 2543)**

Legal representation is a fundamental right that keeps families together and communities whole. When someone faces deportation without a lawyer, they're more likely to be separated from their children, regardless of their case's merits. This program has helped over 11,000 Oregonians maintain stability and continue contributing to our communities.

- **\$10M for Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund (HB 3193)**

The people who grow our food shouldn't have to choose between safety and feeding their own families. This fund acknowledges that farmworkers deserve protection during climate disasters, recognizing both their humanity and essential contributions to our economy.

- **\$14M for Home Fund**

Home is where everything begins—education, employment, health. This fund prevents eviction and homelessness through trusted community partners, acknowledging that stable housing is a foundation for thriving communities. Nearly 5,000 households across 28 counties have maintained stability through this program.

- **\$1.5M for Indigenous Language Justice (HB 2976)**

The right to understand and be understood is fundamental, especially when accessing life-saving medical care or navigating the legal system. This modest investment recognizes the dignity of Oregon's thousands of Indigenous language speakers and ensures they're no longer silenced in critical situations.

- **\$7.7M for Food for All Oregonians (SB 611)**

No one should go hungry because of where they were born. This program acknowledges that food is a basic human need and creates a more humane system where Oregonians ages 0-6 can access essential nutrition—improving educational outcomes, reducing healthcare costs, and strengthening communities.

United We Heal

- **\$45M for Behavioral Health Workforce (HB 2024) and fully fund Behavioral Worker Safety (HB 2203)**

Our behavioral health system is failing both workers and patients. We are facing a workforce crisis and cannot meet the needs of our communities. Workers deserve safe conditions, fair pay, and supportive training, so they can deliver the care our

loved ones and neighbors need.

HB 2024 invests in our behavioral health workforce through scholarships and tuition assistance for future providers, loan forgiveness and repayment incentives, wage increases and retention bonuses, and professional development opportunities. It leverages additional Medicaid dollars and values both the caregivers and those receiving care, recognizing that healing is only possible when we respect those providing these critical services.

HB 2203 makes important steps towards improving our Behavioral Health system by taking action on the recommendations of the Joint Task Force on Improving the Safety of Behavioral Health Workers, including requiring written safety plans and protocols, ensuring training and reporting options, and granting support for employers' safety changes and compliance needs.

- **Fund Deflection Services**

People struggling with addiction deserve support, not criminalization. This funding recognizes that addressing the root causes of addiction through services and treatment creates healthier communities and better outcomes than cycling people through the criminal justice system.

Stable Homes for Oregon Families

- **\$173.2M for Emergency Rent Assistance and Eviction Prevention Programs:** Having a safe, stable place to live is foundational to everything else. This critical funding prevents homelessness before it starts—protecting children's education, parents' employment, and community stability. Most families need help just once to weather a financial crisis and maintain their housing. \$109M for rent assistance and \$63.2M to support housing navigation services, landlord-tenant education and outreach, legal services, tenant supports, eviction prevention, tenant advocacy, and rapid rehousing services. This is included in the Governor's Recommended Budget.
- **Continuing culturally-responsive set asides in the above investments, including:**
 - **Oregon Worker Relief Home Fund** (\$14M), a current grantee of OHCS, to ensure immigrant Oregonians facing housing instability receive critical rent assistance to prevent eviction and homelessness. This funding is estimated to keep close to 5,000 families housed across the state.
 - **Urban League's Empowerment Program** (\$15M). The Empowerment Program has supported just over 3,000 Oregonians with housing stabilization, rapid rehousing and wraparound services in the last three years. Participants come from across Oregon, with representation in 26 House Districts and 16 Senate Districts.

Workforce Standards Boards

- **Fully fund Farmworker and Home and Community-Based Care Worker Standards Boards (HB 2548 and HB 3838)**

Right now in Oregon, two essential workforces face critical challenges that hurt us all: Over 72,000 Oregon farmworkers, who put food on our tables and contribute over \$6.4 billion to our state's economy, lack basic protections and earn an average of just \$34,500 annually. Meanwhile, care workers, who are 80% women and predominantly people of color, face severe economic hardship due to meager wages and poor working conditions.

It is past time that these historically excluded workers have a voice in setting industry standards, access to fair wages and safe conditions, and protection from retaliation. Workforce standards boards set meaningful standards with real enforcement power and accountability to support stable workforces ready to meet growing needs in the state.

