

# \$400M Homelessness/Housing Investments

February 22, 2022

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## Background

Too many Oregonians are facing housing instability or homelessness right now. There is a critical need for services and assistance at every point along the spectrum, from temporary shelter to homeownership supports. Over the last few years, our state has begun stepping up to meet this moment. Our social safety net organizations have increased capacity and, despite serious challenges, risen to meet the new need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. State and local governments have made significant investments in affordable housing, tenant stabilization, and services for people experiencing homelessness. At the state level, those investments have included:

- **Homelessness help.** The state has allocated over \$145 million to help cities and local governments around the state address homelessness, including \$37 million for emergency shelters and navigation centers in cities across the state, \$75 million for motel-to-shelter conversions through Project Turnkey, and \$25 million for shelter operations and technical assistance.
- **Tenant assistance and stability.** In response to the pandemic, Oregon has dedicated over \$300M in state rental assistance and has distributed nearly \$400M in federal rental assistance to Oregon tenants and landlords, paired with eviction preventions. In addition, in the Special Session in December 2021, the legislature allocated \$100 million in flexible funding for eviction prevention distributed through a combination of the Community Action Agencies and community-based organizations.
- **Affordable housing.** During the 2021 session, the state allocated over \$560 million towards the construction and preservation of publicly supported affordable housing, as well as funds for down payment assistance, manufactured home park acquisition, and foreclosure avoidance counseling.

The 2022 short session is a critical opportunity to build on these investments and meet the immediate need being felt by Oregonians who are experiencing homelessness or struggling with housing affordability. After two years of the pandemic, our agencies and our safety net services are facing capacity constraints, so it is important that these investments are made strategically so that they can meet expectations.

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## **2022 Homelessness and Housing Investments**

This \$400 million investment package prioritizes supporting communities in addressing immediate needs around homelessness; building on investments to increase the supply of affordable housing; keeping people in affordable homes and preventing displacement; and ensuring that funds can be spent quickly and efficiently.

### **Addressing homelessness**

- \$80M Address immediate homelessness needs statewide, including shelter infrastructure and operations, rapid rehousing, resource referrals, and housing stability
- \$50M Project Turnkey 2.0, funding the acquisition of hotels and other buildings to convert into sources of shelter or housing
- \$25M Grants to local governments for shelter capacity, hygiene needs, and outreach to people experiencing homelessness
- \$8M Support coordinated regional responses to homelessness across the state (HB 4123)
- \$1.2M Services and tuition help for homeless youth (HB 4013)
- \$500K Support data-driven policymaking in local governments and improve governmental coordination.

### **Building and preserving affordable housing**

- \$65M Preservation—keep affordable housing affordable for families in supported units, preventing displacement
- \$55M Invest in building new affordable homes to rent and buy
- \$50M Support affordable housing construction projects struggling with market and supply chain disruptions due to the pandemic
- \$35M Acquire manufactured housing parks to keep them affordable; seed investment to produce new affordable manufactured homes
- \$10M Support land acquisition for affordable housing projects

### **Supporting homeownership**

- \$15M Increase capacity for homeownership centers and other nonprofits that help families navigate homeownership, mortgages, and the homebuying process.
- \$5M Launch a home loan program managed by Hacienda CDC to help first-time homebuyers across the state to make down payments