

# 2024 Legislative Session Agenda

## Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS)

During the 2023 Legislative Session, OHCS received a historic budget of \$1.14 billion to address housing and homelessness needs across the state. In the 2024 Session, OHCS seeks build on those investments to **ensure supports remain available** for the full 2023-25 biennium and make needed adjustments to ensure **effective delivery** of resources to Oregonians. More detail on individual priorities is available below.



### STABILIZING OREGON'S SHELTER SYSTEM

During the 2023 Session, the **Legislature allocated \$24.1 million General Fund to OHCS to provide operational funding for shelters** that received one-time funds from the agency in the last two biennia and were at imminent risk of closure. While critical, **this investment is insufficient to meet the needs of Oregon's statewide shelter system**. Through a shelter survey and outreach process, OHCS identified the following outstanding needs:

- **\$24.6 million** in operational funding for shelters that received one-time funding from OHCS in the last two biennia
- **At least \$20.2\* million** in operational funding for shelters that did not receive one-time funding from OHCS in the last two biennia
- Funding to support **housing-focused services** such as case management, housing navigation, etc.

To meet these needs, **OHCS is requesting \$65 million to fund shelter operations and housing-focused services** to stabilize the state's existing shelter capacity and improve outcomes in our shelter system.

*\* OHCS has not requested detailed budget and bed count information from shelters that did not receive one-time OHCS funds in the last two biennia. As such, these figures may shift.*



## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION RESOURCES

As Oregon communities continue to recover from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, navigate the impacts of inflation on everyday costs, and a housing market that resulted in rental increases of up to 14.6% for some tenants, **OHCS and our partners continue to see a high need for rental assistance statewide**. While resources allocated by the Legislature prevented nearly 9,000 households from facing eviction, Oregon still saw [22,460 eviction cases filed in 2023](#), with over 84% due to nonpayment of rent.

While the Legislature allocated funding during the 2023 Session, OHCS anticipates that all available resources will be exhausted before the end of the biennium. To respond to this continuing need, **OHCS is requesting \$35 million General Fund to support statewide homelessness prevention efforts**, with 30% of resources set aside to be deployed by Culturally Responsive Organizations (CROs).



## ARTICLE XI-Q BOND ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENT

OHCS is requesting a change to the allocation of Article XI-Q bonds in the [SB 5506 \(2023\) Budget Report](#) to **better reflect Oregon's current pipeline of affordable housing developments**. OHCS is requesting an allocation of:

- \$80 million for the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program
- \$40 million for the LIFT Homeownership program, with the possibility of an additional \$40 million based on demand, and
- \$440 million for the LIFT Rental program.

This shift in allocations will ensure Oregon is able to **continue making meaningful progress toward Governor Kotek's ambitious housing production goals** while being responsive to current conditions.



## SB 5506 SPECIAL PURPOSE APPROPRIATION

In the 2023 Legislative Session, the Legislature allocated a **\$39 million General Fund** set aside in a Special Purpose Appropriation via SB 5506 for a statewide rehousing program to **rehouse additional Oregonians experiencing homelessness**, building on the efforts launched with HB 5019 (2023) resources.



With strengthened capacity and increased coordination in local communities, these rehousing services will ensure Oregon continues to make progress toward reducing homelessness. This program intends to rapidly move households along the continuum from homelessness to stable housing by **offering low-barrier, tailored services, including up to 24 months of rental assistance** for those who need it. OHCS is proposing that these funds be allocated through a funding formula **focused on geographic equity and with a set-aside for Culturally Responsive Organizations (CROs)** to ensure all communities can access the program.

OHCS presented and **received approval of our proposal for these funds from the Joint Committee on Ways & Means** during January 2024 Legislative Days. **OHCS is now requesting the final allocation of the previously set aside \$39 million by the Legislature.**

*Note: This strategy will require a technical statutory fix to deposit funds into the Long Term Rental Assistance (LTRA) Fund at OHCS, allowing funds to span the 2023-25 biennium.*



## INCREASED HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE CAPACITY

Through partnerships with several key technical assistance providers, OHCS has been able – and seeks to continue – to deploy nationally renowned experts in homelessness prevention and response work into local communities to help design and guide their work as a part of Oregon's Emergency Homelessness Response. **OHCS is requesting that \$475,808 in General Fund**, available as a result of unfilled positions within the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM), be allocated to OHCS **to ensure ongoing technical assistance is available to providers statewide.**



## POINTS OF CONTACT

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