

Member Organizations 211 Info AFSCME Local #3135 Bienestar CASA of Oregon Central City Concern City of Corvallis City of Eugene City of Gresham City of Portland City of Tigard Clackamas Community Land Trust Clackamas County Clackamas Housing Action Network Coalition for a Livable Future Community Action Partnership of Oregon Community Action Team, Inc. Community Alliance of Tenants **Community Housing Fund** Community Partners for Affordable Housing Fair Housing Council of Oregon Habitat for Humanity of Oregon Homeless Families Coalition Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co. Housing Development Center Impact Northwest JOIN Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center League of Women Voters of Oregon Lincoln County Metro NAYA Family Center Neighborhood Economic Development Corp. Neighborhood Partnerships NeighborWorks Umpqua Network for Oregon Affordable Housing Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition Northwest Housing Alternatives Northwest Pilot Project Oregon Action Oregon Food Bank Oregon Opportunity Network Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. Proud Ground REACH CDC Rose CDC St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County Shelter Care Sisters Of The Road Street Roots Washington County Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

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Oregon's Heroes Deserve a Safe Place to Call Home

Our armed forces accept the responsibility of guarding our freedom. When they return to our communities, we have a duty to provide them time and stability to heal and readjust to a different way of life. We must help them find a clear and solid pathway back to a productive life at home.

Right now, many veterans are struggling to find a safe decent place to live.

- One out of every six men and women in our homeless shelters once wore a uniform in service to our country.
- Veterans are fifty percent more likely to become homeless compared to all Americans.
- The youngest generation is struggling more. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who wind up homeless do so in three years, compared with 13 years for Vietnam-era veterans.
- Veterans working in some of the main jobs available through the Department of Labor's specialized training programs do not earn enough to afford to buy a median-priced home in many markets.

Oregon's Veterans deserve a comprehensive plan

Emergency Housing

- Community Action Agencies and other community partners need resources to help prevent veterans from falling into homelessness or to rapidly rehouse them if they do.
 - Emergency rent assistance prevents homelessness, and flexible resources can cover the costs associated with placing a veteran in housing with federal *Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program Vouchers*.
 - Veterans and their families across Oregon could be saved from eviction or rapidly rehoused with these resources.

Veterans Supportive Housing

- We know that by linking safe, decent and affordable housing to critical services, like health care, job training and recovery support, we can significantly reduce the number of veterans living on our streets and in campsites.
- Through partnerships with housing authorities, non-profits and private developers we can develop new units with links to critical services in communities around the state.

Home Ownership

- Oregon has a Veteran's home loan program, but for many veterans, the barrier to homeownership is a down payment.
- A Down Payment Assistance Program, paired with the existing ORVET home loan program, could help veterans purchase their own home.

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