



The 22 agencies of Oregon Housing Authorities (OHA) are committed to providing safe and affordable housing to Oregonians facing income, disability or other life challenges.

We believe our children, seniors, and people with disabilities need a place to call home in order to be healthy and successful in life. Our members work collaboratively to bring increased visibility and a united voice for affordable housing to Oregon.

As a statewide association, we gain tremendous perspective from our rural and urban membership and the variety of issues we face. **Together we serve over 34,000 low-income families across our state. This includes 15,000 people with disabilities, over 6,000 seniors, and 36,000 children.**

Our members work together to protect vital services and stabilize families, expand job opportunities and improve outcomes for our clients. We collaborate with non-profit and private partners to bring in new development and help revitalize local economies. Despite the economic recession of the past five years, by sharing resources, best practices and our collective expertise, our members have worked to keep our commitments to each of our communities through identifying efficiencies and seeking out new opportunities and innovations.

Each year housing authorities in Oregon distribute over \$180 million directly into local hands and small businesses through the Housing Choice Voucher program. While vouchers are a significant, our members also are responsible for bringing in new development, as well as managing and maintaining thousands of properties across our state.

We hope to continue to provide outstanding service to our clients and a positive impact that's shared by all Oregonians. I hope I've been able to illustrate to the committee the tremendous impact that investment in housing programs brings to all corners of Oregon and encourage you to see our members as partners in identifying innovative new solutions that strengthen our families and bring value to our communities-at-large.

Sincerely,

Andy Wilch

Current President, Oregon Housing Authorities
Administrator, Salem Housing Authority