



# Oregon

Governor Kate Brown

## Housing and Community Services

North Mall Office Building  
725 Summer St NE, Suite B  
Salem, OR 97301-1266  
PHONE: (503) 986-2000  
FAX: (503) 986-2020  
TTY: (503) 986-2100  
[www.ohcs.oregon.gov](http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov)

February 12, 2019

Representative Paul Evans  
Chair, Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
900 Court St. NE. HR F  
Salem, OR 97301

### Re: HB 2530 and Current State Efforts to End Veterans' Homelessness

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your interest in and support for examining the resources and strategies available to provide housing for homeless and low-income veterans and their families through HB 2530. I'm writing today to share some of the resources and work currently underway at Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS).

Under the leadership of Governor Kate Brown, OHCS has partnered with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to combine forces and work with front line partners to marshal state, federal, and local resources with nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and others to expand veterans' housing across Oregon and end veterans' homelessness.

**This fall, OHCS and ODVA launched Operation Welcome Home, a campaign to address veterans experiencing homelessness that will run from November 2018 to May 2019.** Supported through Measure 96 lottery funds, OHCS and ODVA are providing **10 communities** the support and technical assistance needed to house 500 veterans across Oregon. These communities will create a Veterans By-Name List to identify each and every homeless veteran in their community and create a Veterans' Leadership Team to coordinate resources to prevent and end homelessness. This investment will not only support local community efforts, but it will create a lasting infrastructure to make an impact well into the future.

In addition, **the passage of HB 4007 in the 2018 Legislative Session tripled the state Document Recording Fee, of which 25% is dedicated to serving veterans across the housing spectrum:** from homeless assistance to homeownership, to the development of affordable housing for veterans. **Additional resources for veterans are available at OHCS through a variety of resources** including the Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) housing program, the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and the HOME program have all recently funded affordable homes for veterans, many leveraging federal VASH vouchers and private investment

Finally, I want to be sure you're aware of the various **[veterans resources available on the OHCS website](#)**, including a **[Veterans Resource Map](#)** with links and contact information for resources available to address veterans homelessness and housing needs across Oregon.



Thank you again for your dedication to addressing the housing needs of Oregon's veterans. The staff at OHCS are happy to be a resource as you engage in this important work. I've included the contact information for key staff below and we look forward to supporting your efforts this session.

Sincerely,

Margaret Salazar  
OHCS Director

**For more information, please contact:**

**Ariel Nelson**  
OHCS Legislative and Communications Liaison  
[Ariel.Nelson@oregon.gov](mailto:Ariel.Nelson@oregon.gov)  
503-949-0201

**Gus Bedwell**  
OHCS Veterans Housing Integrator  
[Gus.L.Bedwell@oregon.gov](mailto:Gus.L.Bedwell@oregon.gov)  
971-718-7222

**OHCS Veterans' Website**  
<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/best-practices-veteran-homelessness-prevention.aspx>