# OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ADDRESSING HOUSING INSTABILITY & HOMELESSNESS

As housing instability and homelessness continue to impact Oregonians across the state, OHCS is dedicated to providing opportunity to those that need it the most. Through our network of 18 Community Action Agencies serving all 36 Oregon counties, we work to stabilize and assist our most vulnerable neighbors by providing supportive services and financial assistance.

#### **EMERGENCY HOUSING ACCOUNT (EHA)**

The Emergency Housing Account (EHA) program assists low- to very low-income persons who are homeless or are unstably housed and at risk of becoming homeless.

EHA funds can pay for services from the following eight program components:

- Street outreach
- Emergency and transitional shelter acquisition and rehab
- Transitional housing
- Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing
- Supportive in-home services
- Data collection
- Community capacity building designed to enhance, expand or sustain homeless services

EHA serves people who are struggling with housing instability that are at or below 80% area median income.

#### STATE HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHAP)

The State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) offers state funds to help meet the emergency needs of homeless Oregonians by providing operational support for emergency shelters and supportive services to shelter residents.

SHAP can pay for services from the following four program components:

- Street outreach
- Shelter acquisition, rehab, maintenance and operations
- Resident support services

STOP

• Data collection and reporting

SHAP serves people who are literally homeless and has no income restriction.

Both programs are funded by general fund dollars. EHA receives Document Recording Fee revenue.

In 2018, Oregon had the highest rate of homelessness among families with children.



Ariel Nelson Government Relations and Communications Liaison ariel.nelson@oregon.gov 503-949-0201 Orecon Housing and Community Services 21,756 students are experiencing homelessness in Oregon. That's the equivalent of **302 full-sized school buses filled with homeless children**.

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#### HB 5512 ohcs legislative agenda - emergency housing assistance/state homeless assistance program

## WHAT DO THESE FUNDS PAY FOR?

#### STREET OUTREACH

Funding supports community based providers to help connect people to emergency shelters, housing, or critical services, as well as provide urgent, non-facility-based care.

#### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING

Services for people to regain stability.

• EHA – move-in cost assistance, case management, re-location assistance, self-sufficiency education and training, limited rent assistance.

• SHAP – move-in cost assistance & re-location assistance.

#### **EMERGENCY SHELTER**

The costs of maintaining and operating emergency shelter facilities are funded with both EHA and SHAP. Types of shelters include:

• **Day Shelters** provide accommodations, like laundry facilities, to those that are homeless.

• Transitional Shelters provide temporary or transitional shelter and essential services. Transitional shelter programs often have a comprehensive service focus to help households work towards long term housing stability.

• Night Shelters are emergency shelters providing a safe, warm, dry place for individuals and families to rest. Often coupled with supportive services, they are meant to be a temporary solution as households work towards housing stability.

• Hotel/Motel Vouchers are used as emergency shelter in those areas and times when no emergency shelter is available.

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (EHA ONLY)

Temporary housing and services help to facilitate a homeless household's transition to permanent housing. Transitional housing is typically able to serve households for up to 24 months.

#### COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING (EHA ONLY)

OHCS partner agencies can use funds to convene stakeholders and partners with the purpose of increasing shelter beds, permanent housing, and wrap-around services. Funding is also used to support partnership development, community education, coordination, collaboration and best practices development.

Oregon has the 2nd highest rate of unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in the nation.

### UNPRECEDENTED NEED

Communities throughout Oregon have witnessed the impacts of increasing homelessness and housing instability. Our most vulnerable community members are often found sleeping in cars, shelters, in doorways, in parks, and other places not meant for human habitation. Housing instability is also impacting our classrooms, public health systems, and beyond. Increasing rent prices, lack of affordable housing, and stagnant wages have contributed to the devastating housing instability we see throughout the state.