



March 27, 2019

Senator Manning and Representative Gomberg, Co-Chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Manning and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene fully supports HB 5512 and the requested funding level for Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to invest in the people, communities, and our state as a whole.

The programs which OHCS operates and funding to local communities is critical to the wellbeing of Oregon cities, including Eugene. Through partnerships with Lane County, our region benefits from OHCS investments including:

- **EHA/SHAP funding:** Supports the local [Frequent User System Engagement Program \(FUSE\)](#), an innovative and successful model to break the cycle of homelessness and crisis.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing:** Supports Lane County's new Housing First Program-[The Commons on MLK](#), 51 units of PSH located in Eugene, which the City provided funding as well.
- **LIFT Funding:** Eugene looks to leverage this funding with local partners such as the 11<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln project that would utilize LIFT funding and a City SDC exemption and affordable housing tax exemption (LURPTE).
- **Preservation:** OHCS preservation funding supported the rehabilitation of the 222 unit [Ya Po Ah Terrace](#) project in Eugene and is the basis for a future collaboration with Homes for Good on a Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) project.

In addition to existing OHCS programs that support Eugene's community, we are also excited about some of the proposed new investments in the Oregon Housing Accelerator, Rental Market Acquisition funds, and Rental Market Resources. These new programs matched with the investment in increased OHCS staffing will result in more efficient and comprehensive implementation of the Governor's Housing Plan by aligning with local housing plans and leveraging local resources. An example of this alignment is the current work that the City of Eugene and Lane County are collaborating on related to ending homelessness. We recently finalized a [recommendation report](#) from the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) on a permanent shelter feasibility and homeless system evaluation. Key recommendations include: expanding outreach services, expanding diversion and rapid exit services, increase PSH, increase utilization of the system, expand tenancy supports, and others. With direction from the Eugene City Council and Lane County Board of Commissioners, our two agencies are working on implementation planning for these efforts, with the interest in aligning local investments with those included in the OHCS vision.

The City of Eugene supports the full funding for OHCS budget and asks that you pass SB 5512 in its entirety.

Sincerely,  
*Submitted electronically*  
Ethan Nelson  
Intergovernmental Relations Manager