### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNEESS

PRESENTED BY
LIZZY ATWOOD WILLS, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS MANAGER
JANUARY 28, 2021



#### **BACKGROUND**







## **AOC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES 2021 PRIORITY**

## Strengthen Oregon County-Based Human Service Systems

Increase and preserve investments in Oregon's county-based human service systems, including behavioral health, intellectual or developmental disabilities, public health, housing, and the State's health plan. The State's overlapping crises in 2020 have increased public awareness of the inequity of access to and outcomes from our health and human services systems, highlighting the perils of long under-resourced systems, the need for proactive prevention measures, and innovative approaches to funding ongoing county-based service needs.



#### **COUNTY INVOLVEMENT IN HOUSING WORK**

#### 1. General Housing Services

- Community Action Agencies
- Direct, affordable housing or shelter

#### 2. Intersections with other Services

- Public Health
- Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment Services
- Seniors, Veterans, Early Learning, Foster Care, I/DD, Civil Commitment, and Aid and Assist
- Public Safety
- Land Use and Planning



#### **COUNTY INVOLVEMENT IN HOUSING WORK**

#### Providing the "last mile" in housing communities across the state.

"Local elected officials, including County Commissioners are the ones who help a community deal with development problems; local elected officials are often the unifiers and convenors of tough community discussions about land use decisions; they craft specific economic development strategies and incentives that will work. Commissioners and Mayors are often key partners with Local Housing Authorities, non-profit service providers, and local employers. Locally elected officials directly oversee many essential public services which must be connected to and integrated with our big picture housing work, such as public health, public safety, mental health and court systems."

-Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall, Chair of the Housing Stability Council



#### **KEY COUNTY HOUSING ISSUES**

- **1. Coastal Housing Pilot-** \$150,000 in technical assistance funds used to support coastal housing needs.
- **2. Eviction Avoidance Workgroup-** Addressing the end of the eviction moratorium in June



# Current Effort: Project Turnkey

Project Turnkey is a community based, statewide effort to rapidly acquire motels for new housing capacity to meet immediate needs of Oregonians during the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfire disasters. Project Turnkey is a statewide public/private/civic collaborative of experienced local social services providers, local government, housing and real estate experts, and philanthropy.



#### **COUNTY EXAMPLES AND NEEDS**

- 1. Washington County- COVID-19 homeless sheltering efforts
  - Need for state support: Creation of congregate shelter beds, non-profit relief funds, support for local respite center. Contact: Paige Spence, Washington County
- 2. Lane County- Permanent Supportive Housing and FUSE
  - Need for state support: Affordable housing resources, and operational resources for PSH. Contact: Alex Cuyler, Lane County



#### **Contact Information**

Lizzy Atwood Wills
Health and Human Services Legislative Affairs Manager, AOC latwoodwills@oregoncounties.org