



March 08th, 2021

House Committee on Housing

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem Oregon 9730

Chair Rep. Fahey, Vice-Chair Rep. Campos, Vice-Chair Rep. Morgan, and Members of the Committee

I am writing to ask for your support to pass the HB-2100-1 amendment, which proposes opening the door for all qualifying organizations to access funding opportunities to support and serve Oregon's unhoused population. As you are aware, under current legislation, only Community Action Agencies can apply and receive the named funding, including advising the state on homelessness solutions. Unfortunately, this issue is more significant than what any organization or institution can address by itself. We all need to come together and collectively address this humanitarian crisis.

Supporting HB-2100 -1 amendment will enable more organizations to access the necessary funding, which will immediately expand capacity across the state. This new capacity will bring new solutions for those that need them the most in these difficult times. As a member of the coordinating board of "A home for everyone in Multnomah County," a member of the "TurnKey Project Advisory Committee," and the leader of the largest Latino-led Affordable Housing Development organization in Oregon, I have a deep understanding of the complexities of the homelessness crisis and one thing is clear: we will not be successful if we just keep doing what we've always done.

Homelessness is growing and changing, both in its scope and in the people it is impacting. We need to leverage the vast resources, relationships, and expertise in our diverse communities to address the homelessness crisis. In the 2021 session, you have the opportunity to make progress towards an inclusive homeless response system that allows culturally specific organizations, such as ours and many others across the state, to be part of the solution. This bill is not an "either/or" decision, and it's a "both/and" reflective of the many diverse voices and organizations that make up our Oregon communities.

On behalf of Hacienda Community Development Coloration, we support this bill and all on-going conversations to improve our system. I look forward to engaging in further discussions about HB 2100 and our homeless response.

Muchas gracias for your consideration in supporting HB-2100-1 amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Fonseca", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Ernesto Fonseca, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Hacienda CDC