

I have two proposals for what to do with the "extra" money that the state will receive due to the ARPA:

1. Establish a modern-day Citizen's Conservation Corps (CCC). Hire low-income individuals, people of color, and the homeless to clean up our cities and state. That work could be to remove trash, rehabilitate parks, improve hiking trails, do wildfire cleanup, or any other work that would help Oregon recovery from the pandemic and build back better. All CCC members should be given training that will lead to full employment in the Oregon economy and will restore dignity to people beaten down by our current economic conditions.
2. Buy the empty block in Portland that is bounded by S Corbett, S Macadam, S Richardson, and S Mitchell. Then build low-income housing on the site. Include space for supportive services on the first floor as well as space for women and BIPOC-owned and operated small businesses. A fire occurred on this block several years ago and since then the block has remained vacant. In this era of homelessness, we must figure out effective ways to keep people housed. The state needs to prioritize use of available vacant land throughout the state. We must offer culturally appropriate supportive services so that people can be lifted out of poverty and homelessness.