



February 2021

## **All Oregonians Deserve a Healthy Home** **Support House Bill 2842**

Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) is the State Association for Oregon's Community Action network of 17 Community Action Agencies and Oregon Human Development Corporation, a statewide agency serving farmworkers.

Each Community Action Agency uses a community-based needs assessment to develop advocacy and service priorities to provide the most relevant, most effective services for its own community. Serving every county in Oregon, our network offers an extremely wide variety of programs that serve low-income children, families, and seniors. This community-based approach creates a unique and effective system for fighting poverty in Oregon.

Our goal is to achieve community well-being, economic vitality, and environmental stewardship. We support House Bill 2842 that seeks to make critical investments that will improve the indoor and environmental conditions of Oregonians by incorporating healthy homes initiatives and using a "one-touch" philosophy by pairing grant-funded work with current services. These funds would pair with federal, state, and local weatherization programs in homes that desperately need improvement. By making these investments, homes will remain affordable and accessible to the low-income community, alleviating the need for more new affordable housing investment.

On average, a person in the United States spends about 70% of their time in a residence, making the home the largest factor in a person's well-being. Poor housing conditions, such as a dilapidated structure; roofing problems; heating, plumbing, and electrical deficiencies; water leaks and intrusion; pests; damaged paint; and radon gas are associated with a wide range of health conditions, including unintentional injuries, respiratory illness, asthma, lead poisoning, and cancer. With the onset of COVID-19, people are spending even more time in their home, so the priority of healthy homes has only increased.

This move toward "healthy homes" is in concert with federal initiatives to approach housing-related hazards and deficiencies in a coordinated and comprehensive way to prevent diseases and injuries. This approach also reflects a more efficient and effective use of existing resources. A growing body of evidence links housing conditions to health outcomes such as asthma, lead poisoning, lung cancer, and unintentional injuries.

We ask that you join our network in supporting House Bill 2842 to help provide healthy homes for low-income children, families, and seniors.