

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs writes in support of HB 2100. Our state has the 4th worst homeless crisis in the nation. OCBA knows that this crisis disproportionately impacts black, indigenous, and people of color. Addressing these impacts requires commitment in not only words, but also actionable investments.

OCBA support of OHCS' proposal to modernize homeless statutes that includes being data driven and outcomes oriented, maintaining statewide investments in rural and urban communities, and notably creates a funding pathway for culturally specific agencies as well as other homeless service providers. This proposal does so without taking resources out of communities.

A policy that doesn't mention homelessness and accountability does not live up to Oregon's values. While this bill is not perfect, it does represent much needed progress. We understand that there may be many other organizations with better understanding and closer ties to community that can better advise BIPOC communities than the 18 community action agencies from which OHCS is limited to receive advisement. We should be seeking advisement from the best sources, not simply those who have been there the longest. We should diversify not only the founts from which we receive advice and information, but also open up funding to culturally specific agencies and specialists to help address the crisis as it impacts specific communities.