



**OREGON HOUSING *and*  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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February 16, 2022

**RE: Response to Member Questions on Wildfire Recovery**

Co-Chair Gomberg, Co-Chair Lawrence Spence, and Members of the Committee,

OHCS is grateful to expand our role in supporting communities through recovery with the federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. We enjoyed the thoughtful questions from the committee on this program and wildfire recovery efforts. Please find additional responses to questions we did not fully address below.

**Chair Gomberg asked how many Oregonians remain in ODHS shelters and how many were in shelter at the height of the emergency:**

At the peak there were 865 in ODHS shelters in February 2021. ODHS provides weekly updates on the numbers of households sheltered in ODHS programs. The data below is from ODHS on February 16, 2022. ODHS can provide the shelter profile data over the length of this disaster response to date.

<b>HOUSING PLACEMENT DATA</b>				
<b>County</b>	<b>Sheltered households as reported by ODHS as of 2/16/2022</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Navigator Placements as of 2/1/22</b>	<b>Change from 12/28/21</b>
Deschutes	0	ODHS Shelter Ops	0	-
Douglas	1	Umpqua Community Action Network	14	-
Jackson	201	ACCESS	89	+3
Klamath	6	Klamath Lake Community Action Services	3	-
Lane	77	Lane County Human Services	42	-
Lincoln	39	Community Services Consortium	21	+2
Marion	8	Mid-Willamette Valley CAA	80	+19
	<b>332</b>		<b>249</b>	<b>+24</b>

**Chair Lawrence Spence asked about the number of staff for the program and the ratio of temporary to permanent staff:**

OHCS is requesting staffing proportionate to delivering a complex federal grant totaling more than \$422M, 49 FTE total throughout the agency. There are 38 positions specific to a new OHCS division, the Disaster Recovery and Resilience Division. Of those 38, 8 are permanent and 30 are limited duration. In addition to these 38 positions specific to program administration of disaster recovery, the request we have put forward includes 11 permanent staff to supplement the OHCS Central Services teams. These



job functions include budgeting, finance, compliance, and procurement. These positions are equally important to the 38 positions, since all the activity that will need to happen in recovery will route through Central Services, and we need to increase capacity there commensurate to this grant increase. We anticipate the 2020 wildfires will not be the last disaster that will impact Oregonians, and we must ensure state infrastructure is better poised to respond to crisis and support community recovery. The 8 permanent disaster recovery staff will ensure that the state has a long-term resource to develop and maintain incident action plans, housing operations, and critical institutional knowledge so that the next recovery is faster and more efficient than before.

**Representative Nelson asked how equity will be incorporated into the CDBG-DR programming:**

OHCS is early in our planning for the CDBG-DR program, and we know that equity must be foundational to our plans. Along with the Agency's core values, Governor Brown and the Housing Stability Council have given OHCS clear direction that equitable recovery is the goal. OHCS will ensure an equitable recovery through a variety of means, first by requiring all contracts and grant agreements include that subrecipients will engage in culturally specific outreach and report to OHCS on metrics towards achieving equity goals. Second, OHCS will fund Culturally Specific Organizations (CSOs) to partner in the recovery effort to ensure that BIPOC communities have equitable access to recovery resources and have sufficient wraparound services to participate fully in their recovery. Third, our public engagement approach will center equity, and will be done in partnership with CSOs. And finally, OHCS will collect real-time data on all activities to be able to track progress towards equity goals. We welcome the feedback of this Committee, as well as community members ways to achieve an equitable recovery.

**Senator Jama asked what the timeline is to move all survivors out of ODHS shelters and what are the shelter numbers for Clackamas County:**

OHCS is glad to report that Clackamas County has no wildfire survivors currently housed in ODHS shelters. However, that does not mean wildfire survivors are fully recovered as they may be doubled up with another family or living in temporary housing on their property.

ODHS shelter contracts currently go through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. OHCS and ODHS together are working to ensure that all survivors are housed through this time either in shelter or in permanent housing. If an extension is required, OHCS and ODHS will collaborate to make sure survivors do not lose their current housing. Our goal is to ensure that all those who lost a structure are continuously housed in, temporary, intermediate or permanent housing.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in recovery. Both to this committee and the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery, your leadership in providing resources to help wildfire survivors is greatly appreciated. OHCS knows that recovery can never happen fast enough for survivors, but we are committed to delivering a fast, equitable, and resilient recovery for Oregon's 2020 Wildfire survivors.

