

May 5, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner and Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee On Ways and Means
900 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of the Joint Committee:

Oregon is experiencing an unprecedented state of emergency of homelessness and housing insecurity. The Oregon Housing Alliance's priorities for the 2023-2025 state budget reflect the urgency and severity of this statewide crisis.

We applaud Governor Kotek for putting forward budget recommendations that would make historic investments in addressing homelessness and housing instability. The Housing Alliance supports those recommendations – and we call for even further-reaching investments that are needed to get our neighbors out of homelessness and to secure stable, affordable housing for all Oregonians.

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of over 100 member organizations, including local jurisdictions, tenant organizations, grassroots community groups, homeless service providers, housing authorities and affordable housing developers from across the state. From this broad range of positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have established the attached priorities for the 2023-2025 budget.

We encourage the legislature to make use of the the following sources of revenue to pay for these essential investments:

- Pass **SB 976**, which captures approximately \$300M per biennium in dedicated revenue for housing and homelessness.
- Prioritize using the **general fund** to respond to the statewide housing and homelessness crisis.
- **Access the rainy day fund** to save lives and keep Oregonians housed. We are in a state of emergency.

The Housing Alliance looks forward to working with members of this committee over the coming weeks to ensure that Oregon's next biennial budget meets the urgent housing needs of low-income people, renters, elders, people of color and those experiencing homelessness in all parts of our state.

Sincerely,



Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
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2023-2025 Budget Priorities

<p>Prevent homelessness and get people into stable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain stability for 1,650 households rehoused through HB 5019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long-term rent assistance and landlord incentives ○ OHCS emergency response capacity ● Expand homelessness services and rent assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rehousing and long-term rent assistance for an additional 950 households ○ Emergency rent assistance for homelessness prevention ○ Homelessness prevention funds for culturally-specific orgs and community action agencies 	<p>\$57.2M \$5.9M</p> <p>\$48.9M \$100M \$35.6M (SB 918)</p>
<p>Build new affordable homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LIFT bonds for rental and homeownership ● Homeownership units, including community land trusts and cooperatives ● Land acquisition for future affordable housing development ● Permanent supportive housing ● Permanent supportive housing Risk Mitigation Fund ● New manufactured housing communities ● Pre-development support for housing on nonprofit-owned property ● Market Cost Offset Fund to complete projects already in the pipeline 	<p>\$770M (HB 5005) \$100M \$10M \$130M \$4.5M \$10M (HB 2983) \$20M (HB 3482) \$50M</p>
<p>Preserve existing affordable homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preservation and rehab of expiring regulated affordable homes ● Acquisition and rehab of manufactured housing parks 	<p>\$140M (HB 5030) \$35M (HB 2983)</p>
<p>Support the housing needs of Oregon's tribal nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homeownership investments ● Homelessness prevention and response 	<p>\$4M (HB 3488) \$5M</p>
<p>Expand and preserve homeownership opportunities, including for households buying homes through land trusts and limited-equity cooperatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Down payment assistance and loans ● Individual development accounts (IDAs) ● Special purpose credit program for ITIN homebuyers ● Low-interest loans for limited-equity homeownership models ● Foreclosure-prevention counseling and legal services 	<p>\$35M (HB 3488) \$35M \$30M (HB 3492) \$10M (SB 937) \$3M</p>
<p>Maintain homeless services and shelter operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain 700 shelter beds initially funded by HB 5019 ● Turn Key and Navigation Centers ● Local shelter operations ● Homeless Management and Information System 	<p>\$48M \$24.1M \$10.5M \$2M</p>
<p>Ensure sustainability for community-based service providers through capacity-building, living wages for staff, and language access resources</p>	<p>\$9.4M</p>
<p>Fair housing investigation, enforcement, education</p>	<p>\$5.2M (HB 3488)</p>

How can the legislature pay for these essential investments?

- Pass **SB 976**, which captures \$300M per biennium in dedicated revenue for housing and homelessness.
- Prioritize **general fund investments** that respond to the statewide housing and homelessness crisis.
- We are in a state of emergency. **Access the rainy day fund** to save lives and keep Oregonians housed.