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Homelessness Response Legislation

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Governor Kotek's Homelessness Emergency Response



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Homelessness in Oregon in January 2023

- **20,110** Oregonians experiencing homelessness
- **13,004** experiencing homelessness unsheltered
- **44% increase**, or 6,157 Oregonians, since 2017



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Governor Kotek's Emergency Declaration

- Established **emergency response** to unsheltered homelessness
- **Outcome** driven funding and response effort
 - **Prevent** 8,750 households from becoming homeless by January 10, 2024
 - **Expand** the state's low-barrier **shelter** capacity by 700 beds
 - 600 beds in original emergency areas by January 10, 2024
 - 100 beds in the balance of state by June 30, 2025
 - **Rehouse** 1,650 **Oregonians** experiencing unsheltered homelessness
 - 1,200 households in original emergency areas by January 10, 2024
 - 450 households in balance of state by June 30, 2025



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Homelessness Response Outcomes

- **4,800** state supported shelter beds established and operating
- **3,300** unsheltered Oregonian households rehoused
- **24,000** households prevented from experiencing homelessness
- If the Governor's Recommended Budget is funded, by the end of 2025-2027 biennium over 1 in 3 people that were experiencing homelessness when the emergency was declared will be rehoused – equivalent to the increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness from 2017 to 2023

Homelessness Response Legislation



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2025 Homelessness Response Legislation for Discussion

House Bill 3644A

Establishes a statewide shelter program

House Bill 2139A

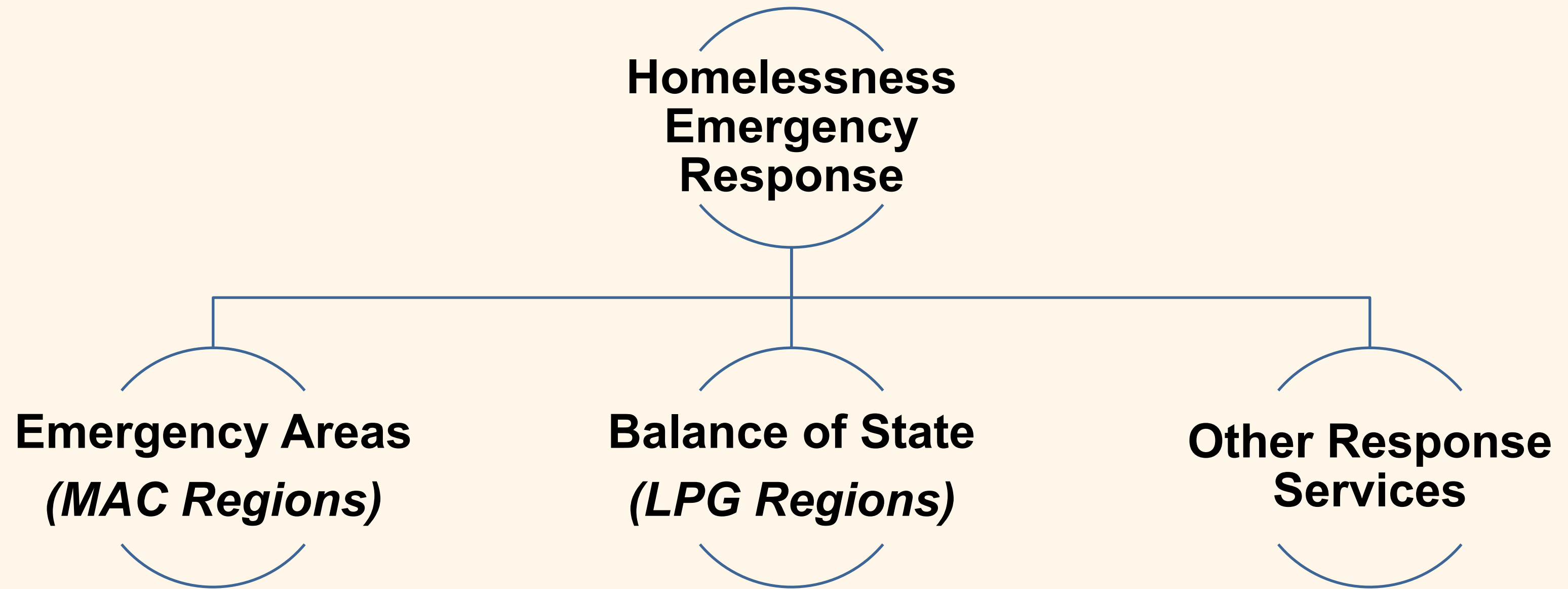
Establishes a Tribal housing grant program

HB 3644A

Statewide Shelter Program



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Executive Order Programs on Homelessness

Outcomes focused approach with proven interventions

Funding through three appropriation bills

Shelter: responding to the crisis of unsheltered homelessness by creating new beds and providing operations funding to maintain shelter bed capacity.

Rehousing: end people's experience of homeless by providing rehousing services including street outreach, move-in costs and rent, Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee program.

Homelessness and eviction prevention: prevent new experiences of homelessness by providing short-term rent support to avoid eviction and Long-Term Rent Assistance



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Other Homelessness Response Services

Programs funded through non-EO, one-time, or ongoing funding that support overall state-funded homelessness and housing instability response.

Homeless Services – Shelter and Rehousing

- Shelter operations funding, including Project Turnkey and Navigation Centers
- By And For Initiative Tribal Nations of Oregon
- Emergency Housing Assistance and State Homeless Assistance Program

Housing Retention – Eviction Prevention

- Oregon Eviction Diversion and Prevention Program including culturally responsive programing
- Eviction Prevention Rapid Response
- Youth programs (Youth Emergency Homelessness Assistance and Rental Assistance for Youth)
- Tenant Services Programs



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Response System Successes

The state-funded homelessness response system successfully responded to Governor Kotek's emergency declaration with a coordinated effort that met specific objectives.

At the same time, provider partners continued to deploy state funds to respond to tribal homelessness, connect K-12 students and their families with housing resources, and provide rent assistance to people with eviction notices, among other programming, to ensure that Oregonians could access and maintain housing.

Together, this represents a systems-level approach that is further supported by the recommendations of the sustainable shelter workgroup.

Sustainable Shelter Workgroup





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Charge: Build a sustainable shelter system

Co-convened by Representative Marsh and Governor Kotek

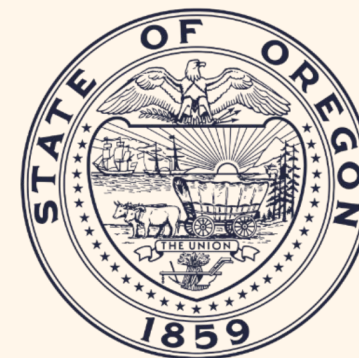
The state has significantly expanded its role in Oregon's shelter system over the past five years. This effort has maintained critical funding for local governments and services providers which has resulted in stabilizing and rehousing thousands of Oregonians. Now we need to take stock of how far we have come, examine services on the ground, and reflect on lessons learned, with the goal of defining and implementing a coherent, effective, and sustainable structure that will support the existing system over the long term. Policy findings will be incorporated into legislation to be introduced in the 2025 session, and budget related needs will inform budget principles to inform the state's budget writers.



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Objectives

1. Shared understanding of state system today
2. Shared understanding of current shelter definitions, standards and requirements, expectations, outcomes, and allowed and actual uses of funds
3. Shared understanding of current statute, rule, and grant agreement framework
4. Appropriate shelter definitions, standards, expectations, and outcomes
5. Appropriate role of regional coordination
6. Analysis of existing state funding criteria and approach
7. Predictable funding that is transparent, equitable, data driven and efficient
8. Confirmation of administrative requirements and assurance of timely payments
9. Discussion of current data collection and technical upgrades



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Membership

Convenors and co-chairs

Governor Tina Kotek

Representative Pam Marsh

Community Action Agencies Representatives

Jimmy Jones, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency

Carrie Borgen, ACCESS (*Jackson County*)

League of Oregon Cities Representatives

Mayor Lucy Vinis, City of Eugene

Amy Fraley, Houselessness Solutions, City of Bend

Daphnee Legarza, City Manager, Lincoln City

Association of Oregon Counties Representatives

Commissioner Cindy Timmons, Umatilla County

Jes Larson, Homeless Services Division, Washington County

Project Turnkey Operator

Andrea Myhre and Dan Easdale, Corvallis Housing First

Navigation Center Operator

Kenny La Point, Mid-Columbia Community Action Council

Shelter Operators

Jody Warnock, Community in Action (*Ontario*)

Marci Cartagena, Our Just Future (*Portland*)

Youth Service Provider

Matt Northrop, Maslow Project (*Medford*)

DVSA Service Provider

Melissa Erlbaum, Clackamas Women's Services

Culturally Specific Organizations

Evelyn McCoy-Harris, Seed of Faith Ministries (*Salem*)

Kimberly Bacon, Urban League of Portland

Housing Authority

Matt Vorderstrasse, North Bend City/Coos-Curry

Housing Authorities

Federally Recognized Tribe

Caroline Cruz, Health and Human Services,

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Health/Behavioral Health Service Providers, People Experiencing Homelessness

Amy Boivin, Klamath County Behavioral Health

Regional Coordination Organizations

Tammy Baney, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

Kate Budd, Human Services Division, Lane County

Yesenia Delgado, Metro

Philanthropic Organization

Megan Loeb, Oregon Community Foundation

Governor's Office Staff

Matthew Tschabold

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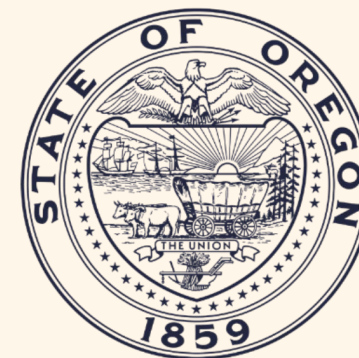
Kay Brooks

Casey Houlihan

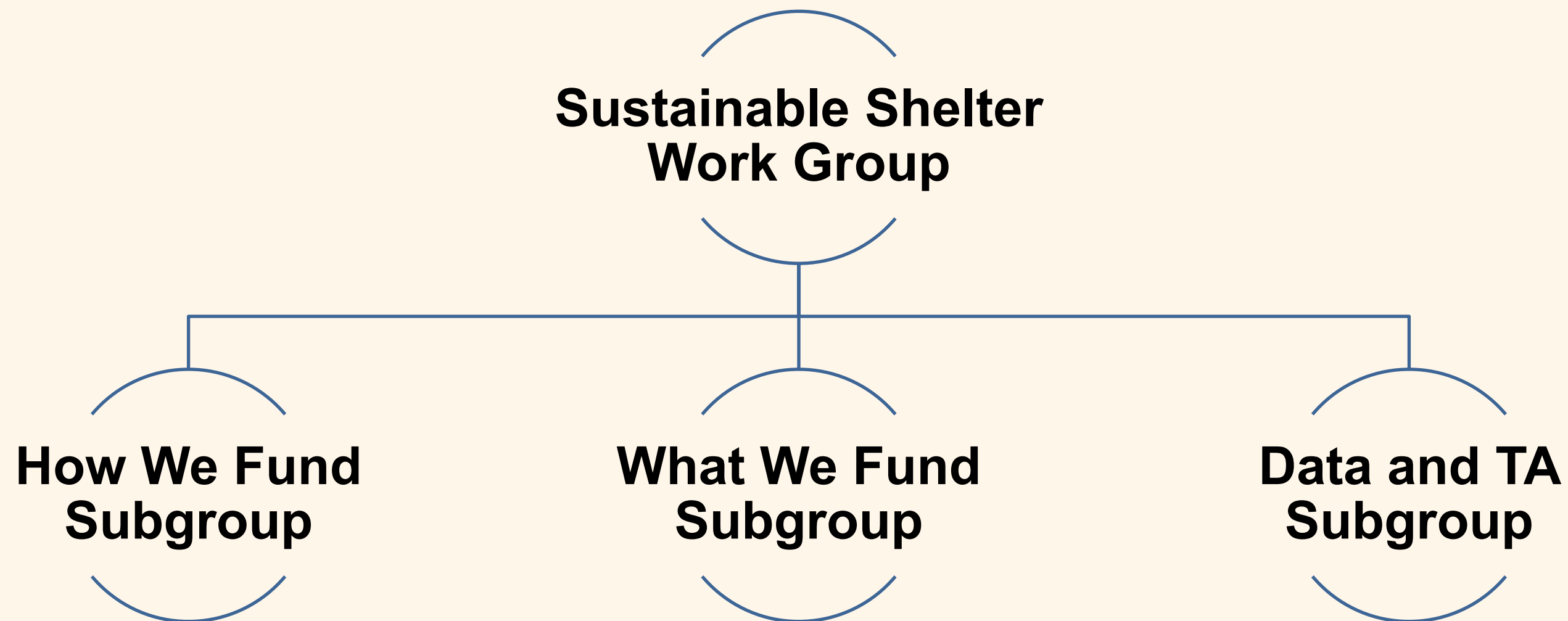
Caitlin Rodgers

Mike Savara

Liz Weber



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How We Fund Subgroup Objectives

The How We Fund Subgroup was directed to address the following objectives:

- Review and assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the current OHCS funding models for shelter (regional funding, service provider block grants, direct contracts, etc.).
- Develop recommendations and considerations on the best funding model(s) for the state shelter program beginning in the 2025-2027 biennium.



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What We Fund Subgroup Objectives

The What We Fund Subgroup was directed to address the following objectives:

- Review and assessment of eligible shelter types, services, and operational costs based on current federal and state guidelines, and the advantages and disadvantages of the current framework.
- Consider and recommend changes to the state guidelines for eligible shelter types, services, and operational costs for the state shelter program beginning in the 2025-2027 biennium.



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Data and Technical Assistance Subgroup Objectives

The Data and Technical Assistance Subgroup was directed to address the following objectives:

- Review existing data collection practices and propose standardized methodologies
- Identify gaps in current data and recommend strategies for improving data collection and accuracy across the state
- Provide technical assistance and support for service providers, as well as guidance and resources to other subgroups on data-related issues



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July:
Work Group
Convenes

September:
Subgroups
Convene

October:
Initial Draft
Recommendations

November:
Final Draft
Recommendations

December:
Final Meeting and
Report



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Shelter Workgroup Themes

- Focus on **outcomes** rather than outputs
- Successful shelter system should ensure **equity** of outcomes across various groups.
- A long-term shelter funding system should maintain **flexibility** so providers can use their experience and expertise to react to their community's needs.
- The need for **accountability**: OHCS should create reasonable standards to establish expectations while deferring to provider expertise.
- A **regional** funding model gives local providers the ability to react to place-based needs and coordinate care across their area.
- A system that is **consistent, predictable, and transparent** will enable providers across the state to plan investments, reduce administrative burden, and hire adequate staff.



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Statewide Shelter Program

HB3644: Establishes outcome based statewide shelter program with regional coordination and services to move unhoused Oregonians through shelter and into housing

- Transitions the state from a recently expanded role in Oregon shelters that has been primarily one-time or emergency in nature
- Implements a structured and outcomes-based program that provides communities flexibility for local planning, context, and needs
- Aligns with rehousing services to move Oregonians through shelter and into housing or the appropriate setting for stabilization and services



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OHCS rulemaking to establish outcomes-based shelter program, aligned with rehousing services

Open process for regions to self-identify and for organizations to apply to serve as regional coordinator

Regional coordinators convene partners and complete a regional assessment of homelessness and current resources and services

Regional coordinators with partners develop outcome-based regional plan for services

OHCS reviews, requests modifications, and approves plans, then monitors implementation and outcomes



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Statewide Shelter Program

1. Focus on outcome of reducing unsheltered homelessness, transitioning people to housing stability, and ensuring housing retention
2. Equity in outcomes for those disproportionately impacted by structural inequities in homelessness and the homelessness response system
3. Flexibility in meeting the needs of each community
4. Accountability for regional coordinators and shelter providers for minimum expectations and outcomes



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Regional Coordination

1. Regional assessment of current conditions, resources and services, current shelters and capacity, planning partners, and community identified needs
2. Regional plan of proposed actions and services, budget, and outcomes
3. Annual reports and updates to regional plans every two years
4. Accountability for regional coordinators and shelter providers for minimum expectations and outcomes



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Shelters

1. Primarily available day and night, seven days a week, all year
2. Prioritize access to shelter or transitional, temporary, permanent or other housing to provide stability and retention of housing
3. Conduct operations and services using evidence-based practices, cultural responsiveness, non-discrimination, and harm reduction
4. Accountability for regional coordinators and shelter providers for minimum expectations and outcomes

HB 2139A

Tribal Housing Grant Fund



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Tribal Housing Grant Fund

HB2139: Establishes a dedicated funding source for Tribes to address their specific housing needs and expands uses of funds to include affordable rental housing, homeownership, and more.

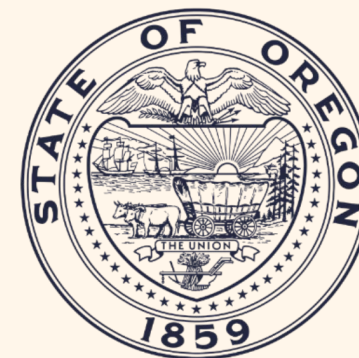
- Transitions the state from a role in funding for Tribal housing and homelessness services that has been primarily one-time or emergency in nature
- Implements a structured program that provides Tribal governments with the flexibility for local planning, long-term vision, and community goals
- Respects Tribal sovereignty and ensures Oregon's tribal nations have the autonomy and tools that reflect their priorities and culture



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Background: Tribal Housing Grant Fund

- In 2022, OHCS began allocating homeless services funding to nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon which was created through the By and For Initiative – Native American Tribes of Oregon (BAFI-NATO) program
- Funded in the 21-23 and 23-25 biennium
- Several tribes have blended BAFI-NATO and Project Turnkey 2.0 funding, such as the Melitas Café project, which created 26 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units for tribal elders
- In 2023, tribes worked with OHCS to identify a new, more flexible funding program, also further supported through engagement in the Tribal housing work group, BAFI-NATO office hours, and at the Legislative Commission on Indian Services and its cluster meetings



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December 2022:
BAFI-NATO grant
created

**January-
December 2023:**
OHCS consults
with Tribes on
funding
recommendations

January 2024:
OHCS works on
details for a
Tribal-specific
fund following
consultation

July 2024:
Governor Kotek
co-hosts the
Tribal-State
Government to
Government
Summit

December 2024:
Tribal-specific
funding in the
Governor's
Recommended
Budget

January 2025:
THGF is a
legislative priority
of Governor Kotek



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Thank you
