



# Nightingale Hosted Shelters

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Legislative Testimony

February 25, 2025

To the Oregon House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Nightingale Hosted Shelters (NHS) in Eugene, Oregon urges the committee to fully support HB 3644, which will offer resources needed to maintain Lane County’s shelter system. As an independent non-profit, we offer conestoga hut-style shelters for adults in the neighborhood of southeast Eugene. We have helped hundreds of people experiencing homelessness achieve stability and transition to permanent housing. NHS grew out of a grassroots response to the homelessness crisis in Eugene-Springfield, and has been operating at its current location since 2017. More recently, we have joined a consortium of shelter providers that, in collaboration with the City of Eugene, works to provide a range of shelter options.

The experience of every NHS resident is unique, but all of them face the formidable challenge of finding safe and affordable housing. Contradicting popular stereotypes, many of our residents are employed, but unfortunately even a steady job does not guarantee housing. The conestoga-style huts that we use at NHS (all of them structurally sound and with lockable doors) are an affordable way to provide temporary housing, allowing people to achieve the stability necessary to find a more permanent housing solution. Unfortunately, funding has been limited for these kinds of safe, temporary placement sites. This situation has changed somewhat in recent years, but we are heartened that HB 3644 would provide even more flexibility and support over the longer-term, offering all Oregon communities the resources and time needed as we collectively seek an end to the homelessness crisis.

We are also happy to see that HB 3644 specifically allows up to 30% of funding for “recovery-based shelters”, as opposed to “low-barrier” shelters. While there is an undeniable need for the latter, it is also true that many of our residents who have struggled with addiction disorders in the past report that substance-free environments are in short supply. An increase in funding for “recovery-based shelters” would be most welcome.

Respectfully,

Luke Habberstad, President of the Board of Directors  
Nightingale Hosted Shelters