



March 27, 2025

Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 5011, the budget bill for Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS). CAPO represents 18 local community action agencies—nonprofit organizations dedicated to addressing the needs of low-income families and helping them overcome poverty-related barriers. While each community is unique, essential services provided include housing assistance, emergency food programs, job training, energy bill support, and childcare services.

As we continue to strengthen Oregon's safety net for affordable housing, it is vital that we do not lose ground. Supporting the Current Service Level budget and investing in existing programs like the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) is essential to preserving this critical safety net for our communities.

While we support all the critical investments in the OHCS Agency Budget, we would like to specifically highlight two programs that are essential to making progress in eliminating homelessness in Oregon:

Policy Option Package 501 - Maintaining Shelter Operations

Under the guidance of Governor Kotek and Legislative Leadership, significant strides have been made through bipartisan collaboration to establish an ongoing shelter system, which is critical to providing stability and developing a long-term strategy to address homelessness. This program not only ensures shelter during extreme weather conditions but also connects vulnerable populations to vital services that help them transition into stable housing. We strongly support investing \$217 million in our state shelter infrastructure to prevent the closure of over 4,800 state-funded shelter beds and to maintain operations.

Policy Option Packages 504/505 - Eviction Prevention

Oregon is currently facing a 140,000-unit housing shortage, a gap that will take years to fill at the current pace of construction. While new construction is essential, it cannot be built quickly enough to resolve the ongoing crisis. More than 2,000 families face eviction proceedings each month, and eviction rates are now one-third higher than they were

before the pandemic. We strongly support investing \$173 million in eviction prevention efforts, which will help protect thousands of Oregonians who are at risk of eviction and homelessness.

Oregon has made significant strides through collaboration and community partnerships to enhance our statewide infrastructure, ensuring vulnerable Oregonians are protected from the threat of homelessness. We urge you not to lose the progress we've made by investing in House Bill 5011.

Thank you,

Janet

Janet Allanach
Executive Director
Community Action Partnership of Oregon