



March 25, 2025

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

Support of HB 5011

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

My name is Kemp Shuey, Executive Director of Community Action serving Washington County and Board President for the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, and I am writing in support of HB 5011, the budget bill for Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS).

As our state wrestles with the crisis of homelessness, it is important that we don't lose ground. Supporting the current service level budget maintains a critical safety net for our communities and preserves funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP). Throughout the state, EHA and SHAP have been the backbone of homeless service delivery, particularly in rural communities. At Community Action, EHA supports a comprehensive, local approach that leverages federal funding sources and supports services like coordinated entry, housing navigation, rent assistance, case management services, Rent Well classes, and data collection and reporting infrastructure. SHAP supports over 100 beds of family shelter across six providers in Washington County including our Hillsboro Family Shelter. Residents across the system are supported with housing-focused case management, safety planning, connections to income supports, and mental and physical healthcare, to help them on their path to stable housing.

While supportive of all the critical investments in this budget, I want to focus on two Policy Option Packages that are especially important from a homeless service perspective:

Policy Option Package 501 - Maintaining Shelter Operations

Community Action leads the way to eliminate conditions of poverty and creates opportunities for people and communities to thrive.



A tremendous amount of work has gone into establishing a framework for an ongoing operational shelter system, critical to providing stability and helping create a long-term strategy to combat the homeless crisis. Not only does this provide needed shelter in extreme weather conditions, but it also connects vulnerable populations with critical services to help them move to stable housing. In Washington County, our county purchased 60 pods and operated an additional 60 units of shelter thanks to the Governor's Executive Order and the State's investment. We strongly support investing \$217 million in our state shelter infrastructure, a critical component to maintaining operations and preventing the closure of more than 4,800 state funded shelter beds.

Policy Option Package 504/505 - Eviction Prevention

Oregon faces a 140,000-unit housing shortage, which will take years to fill at current construction rates. In the meantime, over 2,000 families face eviction proceedings monthly, with evictions now one-third higher than pre-pandemic levels. In Washington County, our community has sustained an eviction prevention program by cobbling together limited, one-time funds from federal, state, local, and private sources. These funding sources are expiring at the end of this biennium, which is why we support investing \$173 million in eviction prevention efforts to help protect more than 25,000 Oregonians from eviction and homelessness.

Eviction prevention is an extremely effective tool in our response to the homelessness in crisis in Oregon. This intervention protects Oregonians from experiencing the trauma of eviction, and it significantly reduces the number of people entering the homeless service system. At Community Action, we conduct 6-month follow-up calls with households who received eviction prevention support. Over 70% report that they have remained stably housed and have not needed additional assistance within that period.

Please support HB 5011. Together, let's ensure that Oregon's safety net infrastructure is strong and ready to serve Oregonians in crisis.

With gratitude,

Kemp Shuey
Executive Director, Community Action
Board President, Community Action Partnership of Oregon

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