

Portland Housing Bond:

Early implementation results mostly encouraging

AUDIT HIGHLIGHTS | June 2019



In November 2016, voters gave Portland the go-ahead to borrow \$258.4 million to invest in affordable housing to address a growing housing crisis. The goal was to build or buy 1,300 housing units.

Our audit found bond implementation is off to a solid start.

Project selection criteria were consistent with most promises to voters.

- Veterans were not included, and seniors and people with disabilities got less attention than in the ballot measure.

Project selection criteria appeared to be applied consistently.

- The Bureau could have had a more concise record explaining why each property was purchased. Only one annual report has been released so far.

The Housing Bureau used a targeted approach for getting tenants into units, and limited data shows housing bond projects serve diverse populations.

- The Bureau must develop a new approach to make sure privately-owned bond projects serve intended populations.

We recommend the Bureau meet voter expectations for future bond projects, improve documentation and communication about the rationale behind future bond projects, and evaluate how bond projects not owned by the City reach target populations.



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