



---

CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**  
PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU

---

Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Margaret Van Vliet, Director  
421 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 500  
Portland OR 97204  
(503) 823-2375  
Fax (503) 823-2387  
[www.portlandonline.com/PHB](http://www.portlandonline.com/PHB)

---

February 1, 2010

To: Mayor Sam Adams  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Randy Leonard  
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

From: Commissioner Nick Fish

Subject: FY 2010-2011 Portland Housing Bureau Requested Budget

We are pleased to submit the Requested Budget for Portland Housing Bureau (PHB). This budget reflects the fact that, for the first time, a single City bureau has the authority and shared resources to help lead a comprehensive housing agenda for Portland. As you review these materials and consider progress since the formation of PHB was first announced in December 2008, we encourage you to keep in mind four central themes that will define PHB's future:

- A core commitment to **equity** in both access and outcomes for our services
- Disciplined **alignment** of the City's housing efforts to maximize impact in neighborhoods throughout Portland
- A relentless **focus** on our mission and what we do well; and
- A core commitment to **working collaboratively** with our community partners

With your support, the PHB is poised to increase our impact. This is critical because the environment we face is perhaps the most challenging of our lifetimes. We are losing ground on housing affordability: wages are not keeping pace with real estate prices. People are losing their jobs and their homes. The personal health of our residents is deteriorating. The social safety net provided by the City of Portland has never been more important.

This requested budget will, if approved, provide needed certainty for our programs into the future by shifting your general fund appropriation from one-time to ongoing. We appreciate your consideration of this shift and your continued interest in and support for these safety net services.

While we are proud of the outcomes we've achieved with prior general fund appropriations, we are determined to continue pressing for better access for people who need it most as we recognize that some members of our community face barriers to access that government has not yet fully addressed.

Thank you for your active engagement in the creation of PHB over the past several months. With your continued support, we expect to increase our impact in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Margaret VanVliet  
Director, Portland Housing Bureau