

2011-13 STRATEGIC PLAN PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU

imagine a Portland that everyone can call home



NICK FISH
Housing Commissioner
City of Portland

The Portland Housing Bureau is charged with making sure all residents have safe, stable homes. We are guided in our work by three core goals: ending homelessness, increasing the availability of rental housing, and promoting stable homeownership. We're focused on eliminating racial and cultural barriers to housing.

This is a roadmap of our goals, strategies and investment priorities for the next three years. It highlights where we're headed and how we'll get there. It was developed with thoughtful input from a variety of people with a stake in the outcome, including community members, housing providers and city leaders.



MARGARET VAN VLIET
Director
Portland Housing Bureau

Portland is considered one of the 10 most sustainable cities in the world. But can any city truly be sustainable if residents cannot meet their needs for one of the most basic necessities of life?

We can do better.

Let's imagine a place where all Portlanders can find a safe, decent and affordable home to rent or own in a livable neighborhood. Portland should be a place where everyone has equal access to the things that define a great city, like family-wage jobs, schools, health care, libraries, parks, recreation, nature, public transportation – even a grocery store.

This is more than our vision. It's our obligation. It requires us to improve and broaden our efforts in an era of tightening budgets. We certainly face hard choices about how we should invest money, time and energy. But through strong leadership and open relationships, we believe we can get to that place we imagine. This Strategic Plan guides us there.

In the end, this is only one piece of our larger effort to build a genuinely sustainable, equitable Portland. But it's an important part of creating a city where everyone wins – families, workers, business owners, people of all income levels, ages, races, and neighborhoods, and no one loses the opportunity to live in the community they choose. We are striving for a city that is prosperous, healthy and rich in opportunity for all; a place everyone can call home.

That's a vision we can all share.

mission

Solve the unmet housing needs of the people of Portland.

vision

All Portlanders can find affordable homes in healthy neighborhoods with strong schools, good parks and recreation, healthy natural areas, safe streets and quality food stores.

All Portlanders have equitable access to housing and to the opportunities that safe, stable housing can deliver, free from discrimination.

We do this by:

- Building and preserving affordable housing.
- Supporting programs that help low-income Portlanders find, rent, buy, retain and repair their homes.
- Bringing together our partners and leading them as we assess the city's housing needs, choose the best solutions to efficiently meet them and identify how to pay for them.
- Reaching out to racially and culturally diverse groups to ensure their participation in the economic opportunities our housing investments create.

values

Equity: We are committed to social justice in the delivery of housing to all residents of Portland's diverse communities. We embrace diversity in our workforce and culture.

Stewardship: We invest, leverage and prioritize spending in ways that provide the highest public value and have the greatest influence on critical housing needs.

Transparency: We build long-term trust by operating with integrity, inviting broad public involvement, and following processes that are clear, open and without bias.

Innovation: We believe new thinking, partners and ideas will help us build an effective organization and resolve long-standing challenges.

investment priorities

- {1} Provide more rental housing for the most vulnerable people.
- {2} Move people quickly from homelessness to permanent housing while preventing families from losing their homes.
- {3} Help Portlanders from communities of color buy a home or keep the home they already own.
- {4} Provide a safety net that includes shelters and other short-term help for low-income Portlanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

housing

Goal: Meet Portland's need for quality, affordable homes for its residents.

Too many Portlanders cannot find an affordable home for their family. They cannot afford to rent or buy a home near their work, school or transit. Others live in substandard housing and pay more than they can afford for housing, putting them at risk of eviction or foreclosure while depriving them of the basic necessities. Thousands of Portlanders sleep on the streets or in crowded shelters.

Produce and preserve housing to meet the needs today's market cannot.

- Figure out how much housing Portland will need, who needs it and where it can be built.
- Invest in deeply affordable rental housing designed to reduce Portland's needs over time.
- Preserve and renovate existing affordable housing.



Bud Clark Commons

Move people quickly from homelessness into housing in a way that lasts.

- Update our Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- Shift resources to programs proven to quickly, effectively and permanently end homelessness.
- Support effective, long-term solutions such as permanent housing placement.
- Integrate housing programs with jobs, mental health, addiction and corrections services.
- Work with Multnomah County to maintain a safety net for emergency needs while prioritizing lasting solutions to end homelessness.



The Admiral

Increase the ability of low-income, minority households to access homeownership opportunities.

- Support programs that move people of color into homeownership.
- Set clear strategies and targets for minority homeownership.
- Increase awareness and coordination of available homeownership assistance programs in the community with a focus on households of color.
- Utilize and strengthen the existing capacity of nonprofit partners to provide effective homeownership assistance to households of color.
- Support financially sustainable programs that balance the level of subsidy provided with the number of households served.

Keep families in their homes by preventing avoidable, involuntary evictions and foreclosures.

- Continue to provide short-term rent assistance where proven effective.
- Continue to work with the State to bring foreclosure prevention funding to Portland.
- Use neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment planning to help minority and low-income people stay in their neighborhoods.
- Raise community awareness of existing programs to prevent eviction and foreclosure.

Maintain the health, safety and viability of the existing housing stock.

- Renew and pursue grants that promote healthy homes.
- Champion improved housing code enforcement .
- Support programs that improve the quality, health and energy efficiency of existing housing and that relocate low-income people out of unsafe or unhealthy housing.
- Focus limited funding for healthy housing in ways that that reduce health disparities.

equity

Goal: Ensure equitable access to housing

Communities of color are underrepresented in employment, education, homeownership and housing stability. Oregon's legacy of housing discrimination casts a long shadow, and too many Portlanders are still denied housing, mortgages and other basic opportunities because of discrimination.

Portland is still a city in which success at securing a construction contract, buying a home or living in a safe neighborhood depends too much on one's race and background. We are striving for a more equitable city, free from discriminatory barriers, where families can choose to live in safe neighborhoods, with good schools, parks, grocery stores and transit access regardless of their race or income.

Remove discriminatory barriers confronting Portlanders trying to access housing.

- Challenge discriminatory practices that serve as barriers to fair housing.
- Strengthen existing and new programs that will expand our efforts to overcome housing discrimination and bring violators to justice.
- Work with local partners to educate renters on programs that can help reduce discrimination.

Ensure equity for underrepresented populations in city-supported housing programs.

- Set clear, measurable equity goals for all city-supported programs.
- Incorporate Portland Housing Bureau equity goals into all funding applications and contracts.
- Monitor and report on whether we are hitting our goals.
- Use proven strategies to increase the use of city-supported housing services by communities of color.



Photo credit: Proud Ground

Increase participation by minority-owned and economically disadvantaged firms in Housing Bureau's programs and construction projects.

- Consistently engage construction industry professionals to understand barriers and work to remove them.
- Work with communities of color to set clear goals and implement strategies to increase participation in construction and professional service contracting.
- Report results annually.
- Make the proposal process fair and available to competitive minority-owned and economically disadvantaged firms.
- Look beyond state certification to better assess actual participation by minority-owned firms, whenever possible.
- Support other local efforts intended to build capacity of minority, women and emerging small business firms

Use the Housing Bureau's influence, investments and partnerships to create fair housing close to quality jobs, schools, transportation and other elements of sustainable communities.

- Strengthen our connections to education, economic development, transportation, health, recreation, and jobs.
- Explore collaboration on a demonstration project mirroring federal Sustainable Communities and Choice Neighborhoods grant.
- Continue participation at regional long-term planning efforts aimed at improving equity and livability.

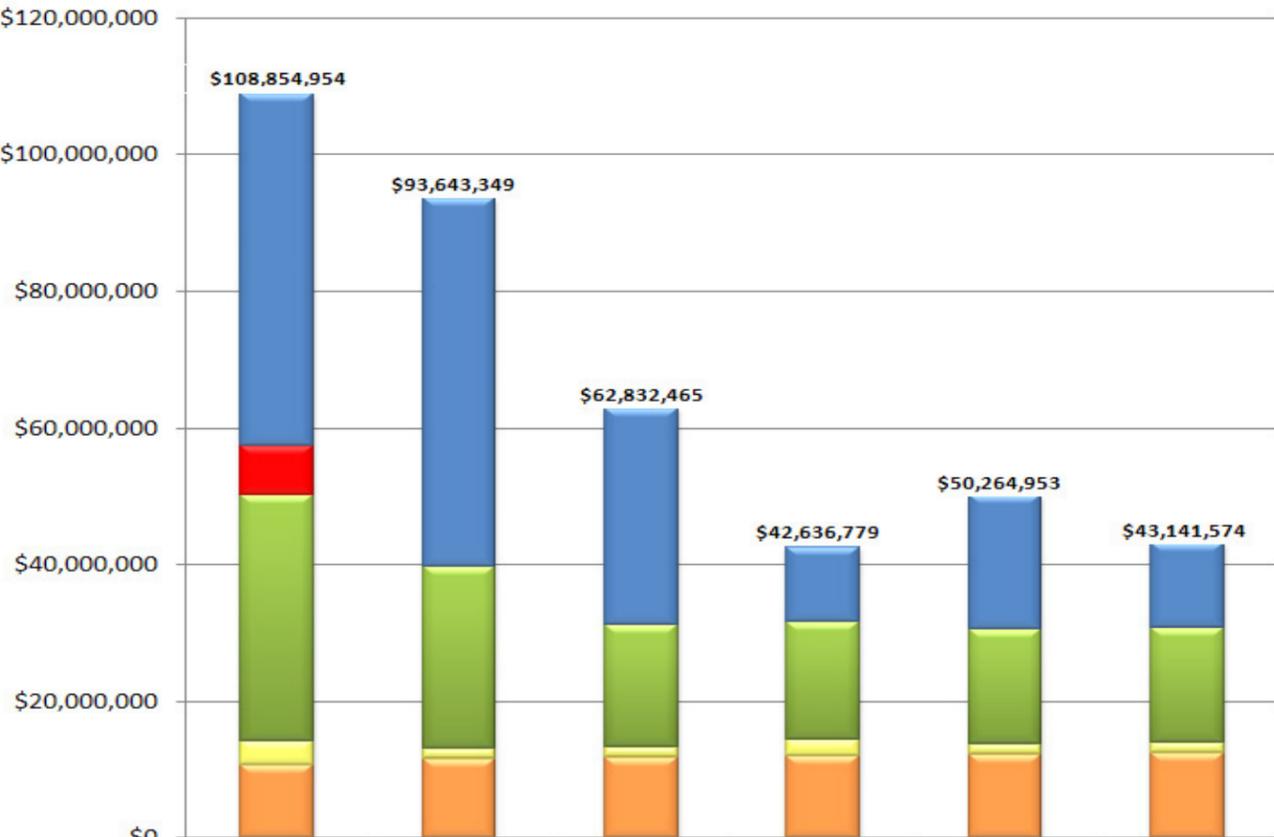


Ruth Benson, Contract Specialist, Business Operations
Letimya Clayton, Executive Assistant, Director's Office

resource development

Goal: Develop, leverage and allocate housing funds to meet needs, sustain our assets and strengthen the housing industry

The Portland Housing Bureau faces potential revenue reductions that could affect funding and staffing levels. Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the largest source of direct funding, is projected to decline by more than half over the next few years. That means money for services and operations is threatened. This reality highlights the need to shift our reliance on discretionary general funds, to stable, ongoing income sources.



	FY 2010-11 Revised	FY 2011-12 Request	FY 2012-13 Forecast	FY 2013-14 Forecast	FY 2014-15 Forecast	FY 2015-16 Forecast
Tax Increment Financing	51,525,212	53,842,334	31,734,551	11,049,784	19,695,116	12,309,749
Federal Stimulus	7,234,059	-	-	-	-	-
Federal Sources	35,912,284	26,805,804	17,887,903	17,144,135	16,853,903	16,835,903
Housing Investment Fund	3,591,408	1,453,747	1,458,387	2,476,585	1,507,913	1,540,632
General Fund	10,591,991	11,541,464	11,751,624	11,966,276	12,208,021	12,455,289

Develop new financial resources to meet the most critical unmet housing needs.

- Build and leverage relationships with local and regional investors, foundations, coalitions, financial institutions and partners to develop new ways to pay for housing.
- Adopt a long-range plan to create sustainable funding to meet local housing needs.
- Increase public understanding of the city’s housing needs and the benefits new revenue will bring.
- Track and pursue grant opportunities to advance the Housing Bureau’s mission and goals.
- Consider a fee structure for certain Housing Bureau services.

Wisely spend our money in a way that produces the best long-term results while ensuring equitable access to housing services.

- Base decisions about cost-effectiveness on long-term research.
- Give top priority to programs that have the most lasting effect on the most critical housing needs.
- Prioritize and pay for programs that have proven to better people’s station in life, moving them from homelessness through renting to homeownership.
- Increase leveraging of limited public funds and aligning of efforts.

Manage existing housing stock and landlord partnerships to maintain long-term value for the community.

- Develop a long-range management plan in collaboration with the housing industry to assess our current stock of affordable rental housing.
- Invest to sustain cost effective properties and phase out those that underperform.
- Work with our partners to improve long-range performance of our investments.



Ryan Deibert, Program Coordinator, Ending Homelessness Initiative

organization

Goal: Build a strong, dynamic Housing Bureau that provides the highest level of leadership and service to our customers, stakeholders, employees and the community

As a new bureau, we are refining our ability to effectively deliver on our mission, vision and values. Integrating the operations, staff, cultures and strategies of two agencies is a challenge. But it's also a rare opportunity to streamline our business practices, enhance customer service, collect and maintain data to measure our progress, improve external and internal communications, and promote a strong organizational culture that builds community respect and rewards employees.

Develop an organizational culture that values employees, promotes innovation and respects diversity.

Set and meet the highest standards for customer service and regulatory compliance.

Provide the community with clear, consistent, reliable data on Portland's housing needs and trends, and on the performance of our programs and projects.

Clearly communicate to the public the value of the Portland Housing Bureau, our programs and partners, and the community needs we address.

Ensure that a wide range of perspectives inform decision-making and policy-setting.



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our partners

211info
African American Alliance for Homeownership
Albina Community Bank
American Red Cross
Asian Pacific Islander Community Improvement Association
Bank of America
Bank of the West
Bridge Meadows
Blanchet House
Cascade AIDS Project
Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare
Catholic Charities
Central City Concern
City of Portland
Clackamas County Bank
Clark County Public Health
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Energy Project
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Social Investment Corp.
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
First Presbyterian Church
Guardian Management
City of Gresham
Habitat for Humanity Portland Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Home Forward
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Impact NW
Immigrant and Refugee Community of Oregon
Innovative Housing Inc.
Josiah Hill, III Clinic
JOIN
JPMorgan Chase
Key Bank
Legal Aid Services of Oregon
MacDonald Center
Metro
Metro Multifamily Housing
Multnomah County
National Equity Fund
NAYA Family Center
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
New Avenues for Youth
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Orange Splot
Oregon Community Warehouse
Oregon Housing and Community Services
Oregon Opportunity Network
Outside In
PNC Bank
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Piedmont Community Developers
Portland Business Alliance
Portland Development Commission
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
REACH CDC
Rebuilding Together
Rental Housing Association of Greater Portland
ROSE CDC
Sabin CDC
Salvation Army
Street Roots
Transitions Projects Inc.
Turtle Island Development
U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development
Upshur Renewal
US Bank
Unlimited Choices
Wells Fargo

thank you

Creation of the first Strategic Plan for the Portland Housing Bureau wouldn't be possible without the hard work of community volunteers, stakeholders, staff and partners. We appreciate your continued investment of time and talent.

Strategic Planning Focus Groups

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Marc Jolin	Mark White
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Portland Housing Bureau Leadership

Nick Fish	Commissioner
Margaret Van Vliet	Director
Jacob Fox	Assistant Housing Director
Alissa Mahar	Chief Operating Officer

*On the cover: A sampling of projects funded by the Portland Housing Bureau.
Clockwise: Bud Clark Commons, managed by Home Forward; an affordable rental home rebuilt and managed by Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives; and artist rendering of REACH CDC's South Waterfront veterans housing project, slated for completion in fall 2012.*



Portland
Housing
Bureau

