



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

Date: January 30, 2012

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

From: Commissioner Nick Fish and Director Traci Manning *NF*

Subject: FY 2012-13 Portland Housing Bureau Requested Budget

We are pleased to submit the Requested Budget for the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB).

The new Portland Housing Bureau is continuing to make progress by aligning programs with its strategic plan, improving transparency and accountability, implementing its equity agenda, and ensuring its core mission is advanced in the face of declining resources.

As you know, we face a perfect storm: a rising tide of need; a national recession; high unemployment; and declining State and federal funding.

The requested budget includes over \$3 million in cuts to local and federal funding for critical programs serving low-income Portlanders. This will result in a reduction in services as well as decreased development and preservation of affordable homes. We have taken great care to seek out other resources, to combine our various funds sources in the most efficient manner possible, and to prioritize investments so they reflect community priorities.

As in past years, the City's General Fund is focused primarily on programs that help people prevent homelessness or end their homelessness as quickly as possible.

PHB is requesting \$4.75 million in historical one-time general fund support. At the top of our list is Short Term Rent Assistance, a particularly cost-effective tool for preventing homelessness and helping people end their homelessness.

Despite the challenges, we enter the new fiscal year with optimism. Thanks to your support, including nearly \$30 million in TIF Set-Aside dollars from the River District URA, Bud Clark Commons opened in June and is serving our community's most vulnerable. We broke ground in South Waterfront on the construction of new apartments to serve formerly homeless veterans. We continue to preserve critical Section 8 properties. And, we are making progress on our plan to end homelessness.

We are grateful for the Council's steadfast support in the past, and look forward to discussing the budget with you in the coming months.