



Member Organizations

211 Info

AFSCME Local #3135

Bienestar

CASA of Oregon

Central City Concern

City of Corvallis

City of Eugene

City of Gresham

City of Portland

City of Tigard

Clackamas Community Land Trust

Clackamas County

Clackamas Housing Action Network

Coalition for a Livable Future

Community Action Partnership of Oregon

Community Action Team, Inc.

Community Alliance of Tenants

Community Housing Fund

Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

Homeless Families Coalition

Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co.

Housing Development Center

Impact Northwest

JOIN

Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center

League of Women Voters of Oregon

Lincoln County

Metro

NAYA Family Center

Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.

Neighborhood Partnerships

NeighborWorks Umpqua

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing

Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition

Northwest Housing Alternatives

Northwest Pilot Project

Oregon Action

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Housing Authorities

Oregon Opportunity Network

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Portland Community Reinvestment

Initiatives, Inc.

Proud Ground

REACH CDC

Rose CDC

St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County

Shelter Care

Sisters Of The Road

Street Roots

Washington County

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

2013 Housing Opportunity Agenda

Ensuring all Oregonians have the opportunity that a stable home provides

The Housing Alliance knows that we all have a stake in addressing the problems our communities and neighbors are facing as a result of the recession. In Oregon, we believe in protecting those most impacted by the economic downturn. Housing gives people an opportunity to build better lives, and our communities are better and stronger when we and our neighbors can afford to pay rent and still have money left over for food or medicine.

We're asking the Legislature to take action in 2013 to ensure housing opportunity. The Housing Alliance will lead the following efforts:

- **Prevent homelessness through restoring the Emergency Housing Account and State Homeless Assistance Program**—This is our most flexible resource to end and prevent homelessness. This resource has seen several cuts in recent years, while the need is growing at an alarming pace. The Emergency Housing Account (or EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (or SHAP) help keep at-risk families in their homes, and help homeless families get off the streets and stabilized. We are requesting an additional \$3.1 million to EHA and \$.7 million to SHAP in general fund dollars to return the programs to levels from the 2007 biennium, plus inflation. (Lead)
- **Housing for Veterans**—Veterans across Oregon face housing challenges of all kinds. We must dedicate new resources toward addressing the housing needs of Oregon's Veterans. We must cover the continuum of our veterans' housing needs, including ending their homelessness, offering short and long-term rental assistance, developing housing with wrap-around services as well as increasing home-ownership opportunities. (Lead)
- **Foreclosure and housing market recovery.** In 2012, Oregon implemented historic foreclosure reform with SB 1552. We need to continue to work to restore Oregon's housing market through implementation of SB 1552 and other strategies. The Legislature has already dedicated some funds from the National Attorneys' General Settlement to the implementation of the law, but additional funds are needed. These additional resources will allow us to continue building a system to provide homeowners with essential information, counseling, legal support, mediation services and direct financial relief. (Lead)
- **Preserve Existing Affordable Housing**—Across the state, thousands of people with very low incomes live in homes with federal rent subsidies. Many of these homes are at risk of conversion to market rate, as is some housing built and owned by non-profit partners statewide and some manufactured home parks. We cannot afford to lose this precious resource or displace our vulnerable neighbors. We need \$20 million in Lottery Backed Bonds to fill financing gaps and preserve these affordable homes. (Lead)

The Housing Alliance will support the following items:

- Maintain the **Agricultural Workforce Housing Tax Credit**, a key tool for housing development for workers in Oregon's agricultural industry. Decent housing for agricultural workers helps support a healthy rural economy, and

Contact us:

Public Affairs Counsel

Mark Nelson, Justen Rainey

PO Box 12945 · Salem, OR 97309

(503) 363-7084

www.oregonhousingalliance.org

helps to meet the demands of our strong and growing agricultural industry. Currently, this tool is scheduled to sunset in 2014. (Support)

- **Support resident purchases of manufactured home parks.** The Housing Alliance continues to support the work of the Manufactured Housing Landlord Tenant Coalition to facilitate resident purchases of manufactured home parks. In 2013, the Coalition will work for an opportunity to purchase for resident groups and for extension of sunsets in 2014 on the tax incentive for sales of parks to residents, CDCs, or housing authorities and on the tax credit for residents displaced by a park closure.” (Support)
- Protect vulnerable families with children through **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**. We must provide families with children with a small monthly cash payment for basic needs such as rent and heat as well as employment services. We can prevent families from becoming homeless or needing other emergency services by restoring funding to reverse severe cuts in order to help support families as they take steps to return to employment. (Support)
- Continue the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. The EITC is one of the largest and most effective and cost efficient programs for low- and moderate-income families. It reduces the taxes paid by hardworking families with children, and helps Oregon families make ends meet, reduce debt, or start saving for the future. The EITC puts money back into the hands of Oregon families and gives them a tool to help them manage life’s many financial demands. (Support)
- Find permanent solutions to improve the **Senior & Disabled Property Tax Deferral Program**. In 2011, a bill passed which had unintended consequences for seniors with low incomes and people with disabilities by abruptly and in some cases unfairly terminating people on fixed incomes who had relied on the program. In 2012, there was a partial fix through HB 4039 to allow people with reverse mortgages to return to the program for two years (2011 and 2012). In 2013, the Legislature needs to find a permanent solution that protects seniors with low incomes and people with disabilities. (Support)
- **Preserve the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund**. The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund provides critical lifelines to Oregonians, providing emergency shelter, safety planning and support services for victims across the state. These services save lives, families and communities, and the need is great. In 2011, more than 20,000 requests for emergency shelter went unmet. (Support)
- Extend the sunset on a key **property tax exemption for affordable housing, the Homebuyer Opportunity Limited Tax Exemption Program**. This allows eligible homeowners to receive a ten year property tax exemption on structural improvements. Property owners continue to pay taxes on the assessed value of the land during the exemption period. Currently, this program is in use only in the City of Portland, and is a local option. We should extend the sunset until 2025 to ensure this opportunity is available to help people buy and maintain their homes. (Support)
- The **General Fund Food** program helps leverage the power of the Oregon Food Bank network by providing general fund dollars to help purchase food, transport food across the state, and ensure proper storage. The General Fund Food program should be funded at \$3 million per biennium. (Support)
- **Restore funds** swept from the Community Mental Health Housing Trust Fund in 2012. In 2012, the Legislature swept \$5.8 Million from the Community Mental Health Housing Trust Fund—a fund designed to help build housing for individuals with severe mental health issues. The Legislature should return funds back to this Trust. (Support)

Questions? Contact Janet Byrd at jbyrd@neighborhoodpartnerships.org or Alison McIntosh at amcintosh@neighborhoodpartnerships.org.

Agenda as of September 13, 2012