

EXHIBIT A

REPORT ON THE WOMEN INTO HOUSING NOW (WIHN) INITIATIVE

Through the Women into Housing Now (WIHN) initiative, the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) will direct \$300,000 of its existing FY2013-14 budget to urgently meet the needs of highly vulnerable women experiencing homelessness in Portland. Specifically, PHB will work with existing, highly-effective nonprofit providers to assist women experiencing homelessness through street outreach, shelter diversion, housing placement and rent assistance.

Why a focus on women experiencing homelessness?

More than 1,676 women experience homelessness on any given night in Multnomah County¹, which is a 22% increase from two years ago. A large percentage of women reported that domestic or sexual violence was an immediate cause of their homelessness. Being on the streets automatically puts a woman at increased risk for violence.

Currently, the City funds two women's shelters, both of which have wait lists of 130 to 190 persons. If a woman needed somewhere to sleep tonight, it would be weeks or maybe even months before she could find a bed in the shelter. Additionally, women of color are over-represented among the general population experiencing homelessness. Females comprise 38% of the general population experiencing homelessness, while they comprise 42% of the populations of color experiencing homelessness.

The Portland Housing Bureau will initiate *Women into Housing Now*, a targeted allocation of \$300,000 from PHB's existing FY2013-14 budget. Funds will assist 92 women experiencing homelessness to find permanent homes. The program will support women as they gain and maintain housing stability through rent assistance, street outreach, shelter diversion and housing placement. The funds will help to shorten shelter stays and free up capacity in existing shelters.

How will funds be used?

Funds will be allocated through PHB's existing contractors. The table below summarizes amounts and contracted activities:

Contractor	Amount	Outcomes	Activities
Human Solutions	\$70,000	7 chronically homeless families housed	Street outreach, rent assistance, housing placement, retention
JOIN	\$100,000	5 chronically homeless women housed; 20 additional homeless households housed	Street outreach, rent assistance, housing placement, retention

¹ 2013 Point in Time Count

Northwest Pilot Project	\$30,000	30 women diverted from shelter into stable housing	Shelter diversion, to support housing placement, retention
Transition Projects	\$100,000	30 women housed and diverted from shelter	Shelter diversion, housing placement, retention
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>	<i>92 women permanently housed</i>	

In addition to the above outcomes, WINH resources will be used to leverage existing City General Funds to expand women’s winter shelter capacity and increase housing placement of women directly from winter shelter.

More resources are needed to open up bottle-necks in existing system.

In FY 2010-11, City Council approved a one-time allocation of \$1 million to help unsheltered Portlanders in the central city. The appropriation was highly effective. It targeted funds to use our existing shelter capacity more efficiently and to free up “bottlenecks” in the service system. As a result, people more quickly moved from the streets or emergency shelters into their own homes. In total, more than 300 households were housed in just one year – nearly a household a day.

Additional resources allocated by City Council are needed for rent assistance, which will be used to free up existing bottlenecks in the existing women’s shelter system by: 1) moving women from shelters into homes; 2) providing eviction prevention or housing placement to divert women from entering shelter in the first place.

An additional \$700,000 allocation to this work (for a total investment of \$1 million) could provide permanent homes for approximately 250 to 300 women (\$3,000 to \$4,000/person).

In addition, this targeted investment would:

- Shorten shelter wait lists
- Reduce the length of stay in shelter
- Free up additional shelter beds due to quicker movement of women into housing