



Member Organizations

1000 Friends
AFSCME Local #3135
Bienestar
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
City of Ashland
City of Beaverton
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
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Homeless Families Coalition
Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co.
Housing Development Center
Impact Northwest
Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Manufactured Home Owners of Oregon, Inc.
Metro
Multnomah County
NAYA Family Center
NeahCasa
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Community Land Trust Coalition
Northwest Housing Alternatives
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
Rogue Valley CDC
Rose CDC
Rural Community Assistance Corp.
St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County
Shelter Care
Sisters Of The Road
Umpqua CDC
Washington County
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

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Rents continue to rise despite unemployment, foreclosures

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RENTS CONTINUE TO RISE DESPITE HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT, FORECLOSURES, AND PROLONGED RECESSION

Oregon's high cost of housing highlighted in 2011 report

Higher prices in the rental market continue to force Oregon families to choose between paying rent, putting food on the table, and paying utility bills. A national study reports that the cost of renting an apartment in Oregon has increased again, an alarming trend for a state with unemployment at 10%.

"The on-going recession, high unemployment and continued wave of foreclosures in Oregon continues to make it more difficult for hard working Oregonians to find a safe, decent and affordable place to call home," said Janet Byrd, Chair of the Housing Alliance, "In Oregon, we believe everyone needs a place to call home. As we work together to solve the current budget crisis, the Legislature needs to prioritize providing basic needs to those most impacted by the ongoing recession."

According to the report released today by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), the average rent and the income required to afford those rents continue to rise despite high unemployment and foreclosures. As rents continue to increase, more and more Oregon families find themselves homeless for the first time.

"Every year it is becoming more difficult for hard working Oregonians to find decent homes they can afford," said Rocky Johnson, Executive Director of Community Action Team in Columbia County. "This year, someone making minimum wage in Columbia County would have to work nearly twelve hours a day, seven days a week just to be able to afford a place to call home."

"Hardworking people should be able to afford housing and still have enough money for groceries and other basic necessities," said Cyndy Cook, Executive Director of Housing Works in Redmond, Oregon. "Unfortunately, high rates of foreclosure are contributing to low vacancy rates putting upward pressure on the rental market and creating challenges for low income Oregonians to find affordable rental housing. In the Bend area, we've seen increases in rent as high as 18% over the last 12 months - making it difficult for families to find safe, stable places to call home."

The report, *Out of Reach 2010*, was jointly released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), a Washington, DC-based housing advocacy group, and

Oregon's Housing Alliance. The report provides data for every state, metropolitan area and county in the country. The report also defines a "Housing Wage", which for Oregon is \$15.81, or nearly double Oregon's minimum wage. The Housing Wage is the hourly wage a family must earn—working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year—to be able to afford rent and utilities in the private housing market. The average fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Oregon is \$822 — a number that has increased 35% since 2000.

This year, Oregon is the twenty-ninth most expensive state in the nation for renters. The National Housing Wage is \$18.46 in 2011.

For additional information, visit <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2011/>.

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The Housing Alliance brings together advocates, local governments, housing authorities, community development corporations, environmentalists, service providers, business interests and all others dedicated to increasing the resources available to meet our housing needs to support a common statewide legislative and policy agenda. To find out more about the Housing Alliance, go to: <http://www.oregonhousingalliance.org/>