



Member Organizations

1000 Friends
AFSCME Local 3267
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
City of Ashland
City of Beaverton
City of Corvallis
City of Eugene
City of Gresham
City of Medford Housing & Community Development Commission
City of Portland
City of Talent
City of Tigard
City of Wilsonville
Clackamas Community Land Trust
Clackamas County
Clackamas Housing Action Network
Coalition for a Livable Future
Community Action Directors 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
Hacienda CDC
Homeless Families Coalition
HOST Development, Inc.
Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co.
Housing Development Center
Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
Jackson County Housing Coalition
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 Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Portland Community Land Trust
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
Portland Impact
Portland State Univ., Student Legal & Mediation Services
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

HOMELESSNESS IN OREGON RISES 37% IN ONE YEAR

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HOMELESSNESS IN OREGON RISES 37% IN ONE YEAR.

(Salem, Oregon) – The State of Oregon has recently released new numbers showing a 37% increase in homelessness across the state, mostly representing newly homeless families. During a one night count in January 2009 OHCS and its partners identified over 17,000 Oregonians experiencing homelessness.

Housing advocates are asking the Oregon Legislature to pass SB 5535 so that every Oregonian has a place to call home. SB 5535 would issue lottery-backed bonds to fund housing programs that preserve existing subsidized rental housing and manufactured home parks. To help keep Oregonians in their homes \$19.4 million in Lottery Backed Bonds is needed in 2009-2011.

“Hardworking people should be able to afford housing and still have enough money for groceries and other basic necessities,” said Janet Byrd, Chair of the Housing Alliance, “This report issued by OHCS shows that too many Oregonians are homeless and even more are in danger of becoming homeless, and more must be done to ensure people can stay in their homes. The State’s report on homelessness adds a sense of urgency to the Oregon State Senate and House Joint Ways and Means Committee budget deliberations.”

Data was collected during the January One-Night Homeless Count by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) partners throughout the state, and presented to the Ways and Means Committee in May. The report shows that two-thirds of Oregon’s 560,000 low-income households pay more than one-third of their household income for housing. OHCS believes the increase in poverty and homelessness in Oregon is due largely to heavy job losses and the resulting inability to pay rent.

The Oregon Department of Education’s Homeless School Count for 2007-2008 (released September 2008) revealed another appalling finding: during the 2007-08 school year, 15,859 students experienced some kind of homelessness—almost double the 2003-2004 level.

The OHCS report pointed out that, as the need for a strong safety net grows, state resources are shrinking. Nearly 60 percent of the people identified during the count as homeless received no services or shelter.

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In Clackamas County we are seeing increasing needs of homeless people who are part of families with kids," says Executive Director of Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) Martha McLennan. "Homelessness is increasing. At the same time, the State funding for our shelters and transitional housing is on the cutting block."

In testimony before the Oregon Legislature's Ways & Means Committee last month OHCS reported that since 2000 Oregon has lost 67 manufactured dwelling parks that provided space for 2,664 homes. As of February 2009, three manufactured dwelling parks with 157 spaces were going through the closure process. Those affected by these closures are quite vulnerable to homelessness.

"Manufactured dwelling parks are an important source of affordable housing, and there aren't a lot of affordable alternatives for the seniors and disabled folks living in them," said Peter Hainley, Executive Director of CASA, which makes resident ownership a viable option for manufactured housing residents across the state. "If those parks close, more people will end up living on the streets."

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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/>