

# **Housing Alliance**

## *Opening Doors to Opportunity*

### **The Housing Alliance -- Our Story**

In early 2003, housing advocates in Oregon came together to address an emerging crisis facing Oregon -- *A lack of affordable housing.*

The Housing Alliance brings together advocates, local governments, housing authorities, community development corporations, environmentalists, service providers, business interests and others concerned about the lack of affordable housing and the devastating impact of the shortage on Oregon families and individuals.

**Across Oregon, housing prices have been moving out of reach for ordinary people** -- Oregonians who have contributed so much - hardworking families and their children, our most vulnerable, seniors and people with disabilities and veterans.

Today, one out of every four Oregonians is unable to afford the cost of their housing. *Tragically, Oregon is the second least affordable state for renters in the nation.*

It wasn't always this way. It used to be that any hardworking family could save enough to buy a home. It was the American Dream. Now, homeownership is moving out of reach for the nurses, police officers, elementary teachers and other working people our communities depend on.

**To give our families and most vulnerable the ability to build better lives, we must put housing back within reach** -- Where people live directly impacts their opportunities in life – the schools their children attend, access to local jobs and transportation, access to quality health care and the ability to live in a safe neighborhood and family-friendly communities. It's time we give all Oregonians a stable, home and the chance they need to succeed.

*Hardworking people should be able to pay the rent and have enough left for food, medicine and other necessities* -- Unfortunately this isn't the case today. Working families are being forced to make tough choices between housing and groceries, medicine, electricity and other basic necessities. It's time we end this disturbing trend.

*To succeed in school and in life, children need a safe, stable place to call home* -- No teacher would question that, to succeed, kids need a good education, a full belly, and a safe, stable place to call home. Children need to be able to spread out their homework and see their art projects taped on the fridge. They need to know that they, and their classmates, will start and finish the school year together.

**2007 Housing Opportunity Agenda** -- At the heart of the affordable housing crisis is a lack of funding. In recent years, state funding for affordable housing has been non-existent. The Housing alliance is committed seeking \$100 million in one-time and on-going revenue sources and creatively employing innovative policy tools to find a solution to help Oregonians realize better lives -- through affordable housing.