

The Housing Alliance, along with its partners, is working to restore funding for the Emergency Housing Account and State Homeless Assistance Program. These critical safety net programs help prevent or end homelessness and provide emergency shelter. We need your help! We are hoping you would be willing to write a letter on behalf of this request!

The best format is to introduce yourself or your organization, and then in 2-3 paragraphs explain why you support EHA/SHAP and the benefit you believe it will bring to your community. You may want to select from the talking points below, and add perspective specific to your organization or experience. Keep the letter to a page. Close your letter by urging passage and thanking the legislator for his or her work.

**Talking Points:**

* Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. We believe in an Oregon where families and neighbors are supported in times of crisis, and given opportunities to get back on their feet.
* The prolonged recession means that many families and individuals are one crisis away from not being able to pay their rent, and many may experience homelessness. The Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) provide short-term help to stabilize individuals and families and prevent them from becoming homeless. EHA and SHAP also help people who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence to quickly enter safe, stable housing.
* EHA and SHAP have experienced cuts in recent years, even as the need has skyrocketed. We must stop going backwards. We want to restore the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) to their 2007 biennium levels, plus inflation. This means an additional $3 Million to EHA and $1 Million to SHAP for a total of $7.5 Million (EHA) and $3.6 Million (SHAP). Let’s act to prevent or end homelessness for thousands of Oregonians.
* The Legislature can ensure that programs which help meet essential needs—such as housing and food—are among the first to receive additional dollars as our economy improves.
* Emergency Housing Account (EHA) is our most flexible tool to provide short term assistance to prevent and end homelessness, and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) is used to provide emergency shelter, particularly for people seeking to escape violence.
* Housing provides everyone, and especially children, with an opportunity to succeed in life. EHA and SHAP are proven, effective and efficient programs that can help prevent and end homelessness for thousands of Oregonians.

The letter should be addressed to Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Jenson, and Members of the Committee.

It can be sent via email to: rep.bobjenson@state.or.us; sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us; sen.chipshields@state.or.us; rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us; rep.tobiasread@state.or.us; sen.billhansell@state.or.us; WaysandMeans.TransportationEcDevSub@state.or.us

Housing Alliance c/o Neighborhood Partnerships ·

503-363-7084 · www.oregonhousingalliance.org



May 2013

**Restore Funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) Letters of Support**