



We can help prevent and end homelessness. \$10 million added this year for the Emergency Housing Account (\$8m) and State Homeless Assistance Program (\$2m) will impact thousands of families.

Oregonians are tough, resilient and driven. When provided an opportunity we are able to get back on our feet. But it all starts at home. Home is where hope and growth take root. Homes improve health, increase safety, grow local economies, and help kids succeed in school.

Often times Oregon families experiencing homelessness need a temporary bridge to a brighter future. When escaping an abusive relationship we need a place to get back on our feet and make a plan – emergency shelters are that place. When we suffer a temporary job loss and have to choose between paying the grocery bill or the rent – emergency rent assistance can help fill a gap. Or when applying for multiple apartments, all with \$30 to \$50 per person application fees, additional assistance can be the difference we need to provide stability for our children.

The economic recovery has not reached everyone. Tens of thousands of Oregonians experienced homelessness last year—20,000 of whom were school-aged kids, a record level. 971 of those kids lived in Salem, 1,380 in Beaverton, 1,206 in Medford and 526 in the counties of northwest Oregon. Seven rural districts throughout the state see more than 15 percent of their students experiencing homelessness.

The Legislature should ensure an additional \$10 million goes to the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) this year. EHA is a flexible tool to provide short-term assistance to prevent and end homelessness, and SHAP is used to provide emergency shelter.

EHA and SHAP help community members remain in stable homes and are foundational to our state's success. EHA and SHAP are allocated to community partners in all counties in the state by formula to help fill the gaps that community agencies and volunteers can't, and meet the most pressing needs in each community.

When every Oregonian is able to tap into their deep well of ingenuity we all are better off. Homes provide everyone, especially children, with an opportunity to succeed in life. To prevent and end homelessness for Oregonians we need additional resources. The Legislature has an opportunity to make an immediate improvement in housing opportunity in every part of Oregon by adding funding for EHA and SHAP this year.



EHA

Provides state funds to supplement effective existing local programs and/or to establish new programs designed to prevent and reduce homelessness

Allowable Uses of Funds:

- Homelessness prevention and short term rent assistance
- Rapid re-housing (help with applications, deposits, etc)
- Emergency shelter
- Transitional housing
- Supportive in-home services
- Data collection
- Can be used flexibly to fill gaps to supplement existing funds or create new programs.

SHAP

Provides state funds to help meet the emergency needs of homeless Oregonians by providing operational support for emergency shelters and the supportive services directly related to them. Helps community response networks fill the gaps in their systems, and meet the needs that agencies, faith based networks, and others cannot.

Allowable Uses of Funds:

- Emergency shelter operations
- Shelter resident support services
- Data collection

Distribution of Funds

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) distributes funds to designated lead agencies – typically through counties or community action agencies -- according to a formula based on factors such as the number of people who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless in a geographic region. The lead agencies are responsible for coordinating with partners and establishing area plans for use of the funds.