



## **The document recording fee: A stable tool to meet Oregon's housing needs**

Everyone in Oregon should be able to access opportunity, which starts with having a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. In rural and urban counties across the state, far too many of our neighbors and community members are struggling to make ends meet and must choose between paying rent and affording food, medicine, and transportation for their families. One of the devastating impacts of our housing crisis is the more than 21,000 school children that experienced homelessness at some point during the last school year.

Our state must invest more in housing opportunity—and we can expand our investment through a modest increase to the document recording fee. The document recording fee is a small fee paid when recording real property documents that provides dedicated, ongoing funding for affordable housing. Since its inception in 2009, the fee has generated \$79 million in resources to help more Oregonians afford a safe, stable place to call home. **In 2017, the Oregon Housing Alliance is asking the Legislature to pass HB 3357A to expand the document recording fee by \$20 to help address this housing crisis.**

The document recording fee brings critical resources to be invested in housing opportunity to benefit Oregonians statewide, and a \$20 increase in the fee would generate an additional \$24 million per biennium. Funds from the document recording fee address the entire continuum of housing needs: preventing and ending homelessness, building new affordable housing, and creating affordable homeownership opportunities. The revenues are distributed as follows:

**Emergency Housing Account** (10% of revenue): This effective and efficient program funds emergency rent assistance to prevent and end homelessness. It can provide rent assistance for a few months to help keep someone in their home, assistance with deposits, application fees, or rent to help end someone's homelessness.

**Home Ownership Assistance Program** (14% of revenue): This critical program funds a network of homeownership centers, which provide counseling and education for first time homebuyers; the program also provides down payment assistance for first time homebuyers.

**General Housing Account Program** (76% of revenue): This program funds the development and preservation of safe, stable and affordable housing. When families have stable homes that they can afford—and have enough left over to cover other basic necessities like food—they are able to prosper. Since 2010, over 4,000 units have been built or preserved in part through this program.

Our communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable home that they can afford. The document recording fee is a practical and efficient way to help Oregon achieve its goal of housing opportunity year after year.