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ALLIANCE**

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## **Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP)**

### **Prevent and end homelessness with \$20 million for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP).**

Oregon families are tough, resilient and driven. When provided an opportunity we are able to get back on our feet. But escaping an abusive relationship, affording nutritious food for our kids or writing an eye-catching cover letter starts with a safe, stable place to call home.

The economic recovery has not reached everyone. Tens of thousands of Oregonians experienced homelessness last year – 20,000 of whom were kids. 853 of those kids lived in Salem, 1,291 in Beaverton, 1,200 in Medford and 302 in the counties of the north coast.

Home is where hope and growth take root. Homes improve health, increase safety, grow local economies, and help kids succeed in school. Simply put: it all starts at home.

**The Legislature should ensure \$20 million goes to the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP).** EHA is a flexible tool to provide short-term assistance to prevent and end homelessness, and SHAP is used to provide emergency shelter.

Programs like EHA and SHAP that help community members remain in stable homes 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. They provide emergency rent assistance, assistance with deposits or application fees, and emergency shelter.

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.**