

Tom Cusack, Public Member, Author, Oregon Housing Blog (<http://www.oregonhousing.blogspot.com>)

I have been a beneficiary of public assistance programs since I was a child.

Grew up in a single parent household in a 2000+ unit public housing project in Detroit. As a kid stood in unemployment lines with mother and also got surplus commodities.

Went from high school to Vietnam, after return home the GI bill and state and federal scholarships paid for college tuition.

Worked for HUD in management positions for 34 years in four cities. Everything from personnel management to single-family housing development and foreclosure sales to large multifamily financing deals.

Retired as head of HUD office in Oregon in 2007, where I had served for 27 years.

Oregon Housing Blog

Started the blog as my way of *giving back* some of the knowledge I had acquired over that extended period.

Key principle for me is independence-I have turned down offers for contract work so I would not be influenced by funders.

Blog is directed at housing industry, advocates, and elected officials and not so much at general public.

I do not track subscriptions or hits. I write about what is interesting to me on a day-to-day basis.

Recent Posts

- [Testimony](#) on Oregon Bill (SB 976) that would phase out the Oregon mortgage interest deduction at \$250,000.
- Posting of [detailed demographic data](#) for HUD rent assistance programs (50k+ units) in Oregon all the way down to the census tract/project level.
- Post showing that 2016-2022 [increases in Oregon minimum wage](#) exceeded cost-of-living increases from 2016 2023.

Changes

Blogging platform is getting old; email subscriptions service broken. I tell users to **follow me on Twitter—@oregonhousing**.

All of my blog posts appear on Twitter plus much more.

Some of links no longer work and I need to switch platforms from Blogger.

Upcoming posts

- 2023 Homeless data via public record requests.
- HUD income data should show a substantial increase..
- Under reported: *How much do work support programs like EITC help families toward self-sufficiency?*