

Director's Message



September 9, 2015

To our partners:

In July, [my last message](#) announced the very exciting news that the legislature committed \$62.5 million in bonds for affordable housing. This included:

- \$40 million of general obligation, Article XI-Q bonds. These funds will be used to create the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing Program to build new affordable housing for families with children who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.
- \$20 million of lottery backed bonds to provide housing for people with mental illnesses or addictions disorders.
- \$2.5 million of lottery backed bonds to preserve existing affordable housing.

We are now ready to begin developing the specifics of these programs. With the commitment of \$20 million for people with mental health and addictions disorders, we are currently in the process of planning with our colleagues at the Oregon Health Authority. Director Lynne Saxton and I are committed to building on the good collaboration created between our agencies over the past few years, and to aggressively address the troubling housing challenges facing Oregonians with mental illness and addictions disorders. Oregon Health Authority will be leading efforts to engage stakeholders and assess the need for these resources.

For the LIFT Housing Development program, you may recall that the State Housing Council is convening two subcommittees that will advise the Council and the Department on ways to efficiently deploy the new funds to maximize the impact on the crisis currently facing families with low incomes. These two subcommittees will consider policy and financial structuring questions, and include subject matter experts. It is our goal that these subcommittees will consider many questions over the course of the next several months, and will ultimately make recommendations to the Council in February 2015. Charters have been developed, which outline the tasks and deliverables, as well as membership for both the [policy subcommittee](#) and the [financial structuring subcommittee](#).

Between now and February 2015, the policy and financial structuring subcommittees will meet three times, plus one joint meeting. The schedule is as follows:

	Financial Structuring Subcommittee	Policy Subcommittee
Meeting 1	Thursday, September 17, 2015 1 pm – 4 pm Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE, Room 237 Salem, OR 97301	Wednesday, September 16, 2015 9 am – Noon Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE, Room 124 Salem, OR 97301
Meeting 2	Thursday, October 15, 2015 9 am – Noon Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE, Room 124 Salem, OR 97301	Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9 am – Noon Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE, Room 124 Salem, OR 97301



Joint Meeting	Monday, December 7, 2015 1 pm – 4 pm Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE, Room 124 Salem, OR 97301	Monday, December 7, 2015 1 pm – 4 pm Oregon Housing and Community Services 725 Summer Street NE, Room 124 Salem, OR 97301
Meeting 3	Wednesday, January 13, 2016 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm Oregon State Library 250 Winter Street NE, Room 103 Salem, OR 97301	Wednesday, January 13, 2016 9 am – Noon Oregon State Library 250 Winter Street NE, Room 103 Salem, OR 97301

These meetings will be open to the public. We intend to send out agendas ahead of time as well as summaries of the meeting afterwards to help keep everyone informed throughout the process. We will have call-in capabilities for these meetings.

Throughout this process, we will be looking to the subcommittee members to provide input and insight into a range of questions regarding implementation of the LIFT program. We have received significant input and direction already from the legislature, Legislative Counsel, and the Oregon Department of Justice, so the charge now is to quickly shape that guidance into a housing finance and development program that works on the ground.

We are looking forward to beginning these dialogues. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Alison McIntosh at alison.mcintosh@oregon.gov or 503-986-2079.

Sincerely,



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