

# Director's Message



April 7, 2017

Dear Partners,

The cherry blossoms are blooming in Salem, hopefully signaling an end to winter storms and sunnier days ahead. In addition to the blossoms and greenery sprouting around Oregon, I'm pleased to share a few of the things we have budding at OHCS.

## Recent Funding Awards

Today, April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Housing Stability Council approved funding for eight affordable housing projects through the 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit, HOME and gap financing. Seven of these are additional affordable housing projects under the 2016 HOME, LIHTC, and gap financing NOFA.

These awards will provide 514 homes affordable to seniors and families in need, in both urban and rural areas throughout the state. The awards include developments serving individuals and families suffering from the destabilizing effects of gentrification and displacement, as well as veterans and farmworkers. While the majority of these awards will fund new construction, we are also supporting important preservation work, like Ya Po Ah Terrace in Eugene. You may find the complete list of recommendations that received approval [online](#).



## 2017 Strategic Goals

I am pleased to share that OHCS has finalized our [2017 Strategic Goals](#). Guided by the following principles – partnership is central to our work and equity matters – OHCS developed the following goals that will focus our work throughout this year:

1. Build a stronger OHCS that engages, supports, and challenges employees.
2. Build a stronger OHCS that engages and serves our communities.
3. Work to close the affordable housing gap for low-income households.



4. Prevent and reduce statewide poverty and homelessness.
5. Reduce home energy costs and improve housing affordability through Energy Services programs.
6. Expand access to homeownership with modest incomes; in particular to bridge the minority homeownership gap.
7. Work to avoid and resolve foreclosures.

Each goal is supported by [action items](#) that illustrate the specific actions OHCS will undertake to meet our goals. I want to recognize and thank OHCS leadership and staff for their hard work on developing these goals. The Strategic Goal implementation will include a robust regular “report out” mechanism to engage staff and leaders to use data to track their progress, to report on and celebrate successes, and identify and address roadblocks. Progress will be regularly shared with the Housing Stability Council and our stakeholders. I look forward to updating you on our work throughout the year and welcome your feedback. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

## Governor Brown Announcement on Ending Veteran Homelessness



OHCS Director Margaret Solle Salazar, OHCS Housing Stability Council Member Val Valfre, and ODVA Director Cameron Smith at the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon

On Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, I was honored to join Governor Kate Brown and Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs Director Cameron Smith at a convening of leaders of veteran organizations from across the state at the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon. We were also joined by Councilmember Val Valfre, who serves the state not only on our Housing Stability Council, but also on the Advisory Commission for ODVA.

Governor Brown called on the Legislature to support additional investments in veteran services and to provide a home for every veteran in Oregon.

As you may know, OHCS has included reducing veteran homelessness in our [2017 Strategic Goals](#). We are grateful for the Governor's leadership on this important work and look forward to partnering with ODVA to increase affordable housing and homeless prevention efforts for Oregon's veterans.

## Multifamily Weatherization

OHCS is working hard to expand the impact of our Multifamily Weatherization program. Weatherization work helps to reduce energy costs and make critical housing repairs – and can be a powerful resource for preserving affordable housing. I am pleased that OHCS has



identified a program management contractor to design, market, manage, and provide effective strategies for the multifamily low-income energy efficiency program. Last week, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) issued a Notice to Proceed in the hiring of [TRC Engineers, Inc.](#)

TRC is a recognized national leader in energy efficiency, particularly within the multifamily sector. TRC has successfully developed and implemented many energy efficiency programs for utilities, state agencies, and other entities across the country for decades. TRC has developed multifamily weatherization programs in New York, California, New Jersey, Maine, New Mexico, as well as San Diego's Gas and Electric multifamily program. We are excited about this work and the opportunities it will afford for our affordable housing efforts. We will keep our partners posted on the status of this initiative.

### **Mental Health Housing Deadline Approaching**

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that applications for the Mental Health Housing NOFAs, [Mental Health Housing SMI/SUD #4474](#) and [Mental Health Housing Crisis Respite #4475](#), are due by 4:00PM PST on April 21, 2017.

These Mental Health Housing funds were committed by the 2015 Oregon Legislature and provide capital development funds to acquire, construct, and/or rehabilitate Crisis Respite as well as Supported or Supportive Housing for individuals with Serious Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorders.

For questions regarding these applications, please refer to the [Mental Health Housing NOFA Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#). In addition, general questions can be submitted to [MFNOFA@oregon.gov](mailto:MFNOFA@oregon.gov); please specify which Mental Health Housing NOFA in the subject title.

### **HUD 811 Project Rental Assistance**

As an additional reminder, supportive and supported housing funding through the HUD 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) program is still available. OHCS received funding from HUD to integrate approximately seventy-five 811 PRA subsidized units into properties located throughout Oregon funded with federal, state, and local programs. The program provides supportive housing for extremely low-income Oregonians with severe and persistent mental illness, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The rental assistance can be used as a resource in existing multifamily rental properties, or can be tied to new rental units.

Full information and the application are available [online](#). For questions regarding the program or the application process, please contact Angela Yardley at 503-986-2091 or [angela.yardley@oregon.gov](mailto:angela.yardley@oregon.gov).



## Connect with OHCS on Social Media

OHCS is now on [Facebook](#)! We are expanding our social media presence in an effort to better communicate with partners and the public. 'Like' or 'Follow' us today.

OHCS is also on [Twitter](#) and currently has more than 500 followers that include many OHCS employees, housing advocates, and local media. Join the conversation by following @OregonHCS.

Best regards,



Margaret Solle Salazar, Director

