

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-01

EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-01

WHEREAS, in response to significant increases in unsheltered homelessness in the State of Oregon, Governor Kotek declared a homelessness state of emergency on January 10, 2023, in Continuum of Care regions that experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness of 50% or greater between 2017 and 2022.

On January 7, 2025, the Governor issued EO 25-01, which extended the homelessness state of emergency previously established through EOs 23-02, 23-03, 23-09, and 24-02.

Seven of the state's eight CoC regions were included in the homelessness state of emergency declared in Executive Order 23-02 on January 10, 2023. Four CoC regions and the Metro region had experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness of 50% or more from 2017 to 2022:

- Metro region Continuums of Care¹ (50.4%);
- Central Oregon (86%);
- Eugene, Springfield/Lane County (110%);
- Medford, Ashland/Jackson County (132%); and
- Salem/Marion, Polk Counties (150%).

Oregon Department of Emergency Management established a process for county governments outside of the emergency areas named in EO 23-02 to request to be included. Clatsop, Linn and Malheur counties each submitted a request to be included in the emergency order, and each met the following inclusion criteria.

1. The unsheltered population in 2022 must be greater than 30 households; and
2. The county has declared a local state of emergency related to homelessness; and
3. At least one of the following is true:
 - a. Unsheltered homelessness increased by 50% or more between 2017-2022;
 - b. The rate of unsheltered homelessness in 2022 was 80% or greater.

As a result of the Governor's state of emergency related to homelessness and actions taken from January 2023 through September 2025:

- 6,286 shelter beds were provided for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, a combination of new beds and preventing closure of existing beds;
- 5,539 Oregonians experiencing unsheltered homelessness were rehoused; and

¹ Portland, Gresham/Multnomah, Hillsboro, Beaverton/Washington County, and Clackamas County.

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- 25,942 households were prevented from eviction and risk of homelessness.

WHEREAS, measurable progress has been made under the homelessness state of emergency, the conditions necessitating the declaration of emergency have not yet fully resolved.

This includes a significant portion of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness also experiencing serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder, or other health conditions impacting behavioral health such as traumatic brain injuries. This need has been detailed in the 2024 homelessness point-in-time count which provides data that 4,521 individuals experiencing homelessness reported living with serious mental illness and 4,099 individuals experiencing homelessness reported living with a chronic substance use disorder.

The co-occurring conditions of homelessness and behavioral health challenges result in repeated interactions with emergency departments, inpatient psychiatric facilities, jails or prisons, and crisis response systems. Helping individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and behavioral health conditions requires sustained, integrated solutions that align housing and health care systems, particularly for individuals who are exiting acute care treatment, residential treatment, or the Oregon State Hospital who are unable to stabilize and likely to experience unsheltered homelessness without intensive housing and wraparound services.

WHEREAS, ORS 401.165 *et seq.* empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency upon determining that an emergency has occurred or is imminent. Pursuant to that authority, I find that unsheltered homelessness in the CoC regions for Eugene, Springfield/Lane County; Portland, Gresham/Multnomah County; Medford, Ashland/Jackson County; Central Oregon; Salem/Marion, Polk Counties; Hillsboro, Beaverton/Washington County; Clackamas County, Linn County, Malheur County, and Clatsop County (collectively, "emergency areas"), has caused, continues to cause, and is threatening to cause widespread injury to people and property, widespread human suffering, and widespread financial loss and thus constitutes an emergency under ORS 401.025(1).

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT:

There is a state of emergency in the emergency areas due to unsheltered homelessness. The emergency areas include:



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- Metro region Continuums of Care²;
- Central Oregon;
- Eugene, Springfield/Lane County;
- Medford, Ashland/Jackson County;
- Salem/Marion, Polk Counties;
- Linn County;
- Clatsop County; and
- Malheur County.

I declare this emergency for these areas because they have experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness of 50% or greater between 2017 and 2022, or met the opt-in criteria for counties in the Balance of State CoC in EO 23-09.

Oregon Department of Emergency Management, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Health Authority, and Executive State Agencies shall continue to take the actions to address the state of emergency as previously described and directed in EO 25-01. These actions include transitioning toward sustainable and integrated housing and behavioral health systems of care while maintaining effort to prevent loss of shelter, housing, and service capacity, while supporting individuals with the highest and most complex needs.

1. Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM). OEM shall maintain the State's Emergency Operations Plan and coordinate access to and use of personnel and equipment of all state agencies necessary to assess, alleviate, respond to, mitigate, or recover from this emergency.
 - a. In conformance with the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and ORS chapter 401, state agencies are directed to provide any assistance and support requested by OEM as needed to assist in the response to this emergency.
 - b. Any local government requests for state resources to respond to or recover from this emergency must be submitted through county or city governing bodies to OEM, in compliance with ORS 401.165(2).
2. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA). OHCS and OHA, in coordination with any executive state agencies necessary, shall:

² Portland, Gresham/Multnomah, Hillsboro, Beaverton/Washington County, and Clackamas County.



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- a. With 2025-2027 legislatively adopted funding, across all Oregon communities, rehouse 1,400 additional households experiencing homelessness and prevent eviction and homelessness for 8,167 additional Oregonian households.
 - b. With 2025-2027 legislatively adopted funding, make available \$20,000,000 during the 2025-2027 biennium to support the development of intensive Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects.
 - i. Investments will prioritize individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, chronic homelessness with high acuity behavioral health needs, and develop a housing model capable of delivering intensive, wraparound services to meet the needs of residents.
 - ii. Projects should be designed to increase housing stability for residents and reduce repeated utilization of acute care and institutional settings.
 - c. Establish a statewide coordinated entry pathway for intensive PSH projects that prioritize populations from:
 - i. Oregon State Hospital
 - ii. Inpatient psychiatric facilities
 - iii. Residential treatment settings
 - iv. Other acute care environments
 - d. Utilize data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) with Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) and other health system data to improve outcomes and increase program efficacy.
 - e. Allocate available funding to expand behavioral health capacity, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Residential treatment facilities
 - ii. Supportive housing for individuals stepping down from residential care
 - f. Explore the feasibility of implementing a Medicaid 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services waiver to support individuals experiencing chronic homelessness with behavioral health needs.
 - g. Standardize clear and measurable goals and outcomes for deflection programs that divert individuals from the criminal legal system to treatment and services.
3. Discretion; No Right of Action. Any decision made by the Governor pursuant to this Executive Order is made at her sole discretion. This Executive Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforcement at law or in equity by any party



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against the State of Oregon, its agencies, departments, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof.

4. Delegation. Where this Executive Order delegates the Governor's authority to an agency, that delegation does not deprive the Governor of that authority.
5. Legal Effect. This Executive Order is issued under the authority conferred on the Governor by ORS 401.035, ORS 401.165 to 401.236, and ORS 401.525. Pursuant to ORS 401.192, this Executive Order and the actions taken pursuant to it have the full force and effect of law, and any existing laws, ordinances, rules, and orders shall be inoperative to the extent they are inconsistent with this exercise of the Governor's emergency powers.
6. Severability. If any portion of this Executive Order is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, all remaining portions of this Executive Order shall remain in effect.
7. Duration. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until January 10, 2027, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Governor. The Governor shall reassess the necessity of this Executive Order every two months and shall retain, modify, or supplement it as circumstances warrant.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 7th day of January, 2026.



Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE