



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services

Aging and Houselessness

Innovative Housing Models in Oregon

September 23, 2026

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Candice Smith, Executive Director/CEO, HomeShare Oregon

Welcome!

Nakeshia Knight-Coyle, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD)

Oregon Department of Human Services



Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Logistics and community agreements
3. Data and trends
4. Innovative models in Oregon
5. APD services
6. Q+A



Webinar Logistics

- American Sign Language translation is available for today's meeting.
- Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) live captioning is provided.
- We ask all participants to remain muted.
 - To ask a question, please use the icon to raise your hand moderators will call upon you.
 - If joining by phone, dial *9 to raise and lower your hand.
- Please refrain from using the chat for topics beyond the group discussion.
- This session will be recorded.

Community Agreements

Invitation for laughter

We invite laughter, compassion and gratitude.

Lead with curiosity, not judgement

Be curious and ask questions to better understand.

Respectful engagement

We contribute in ways that support clarity, access and connection for everyone.

Shared Responsibility

We share knowledge and resources to support each others learning

Self-Compassion

We are all at different places in our learning allow ourselves the same grace and understanding we would give others.

Resiliency and Community Care

We uplift one another with care, joy and connection to strengthen our community.

Keep an open mind

Growing as a person means being willing to learn and evolve.

Data and Trends

Katie Egan

(She/her)

Housing and Homelessness Policy Advisor
Oregon Department of Human Services



Why Housing Matters for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Stable housing creates the foundation for:

-  Employment
-  Health & well-being
-  Supportive relationships
-  Independence



Rising Homelessness Among Older Adults

Adults Age 55+	United States	Oregon
Individuals experiencing homelessness in 2025	148,776	5,664
Share of all people experiencing homelessness	20%	21%
Percentage experiencing unsheltered homelessness	43%	55%
Growth in homelessness between 2023 and 2025	16%	15%*

Figures reflect 2025 HUD Point-in-Time (PIT) estimates.

*The Oregon trend excludes Multnomah County because of changes in its counting methodology. All other Oregon figures are statewide.

Data limitation: The PIT count does not comprehensively identify people with disabilities.

What causes homelessness among older adults and people with disabilities?

- Low/fixed incomes
- Lack of affordable and accessible housing
- Major life changes:
 - Death of a spouse or caregiver
 - Rent increase
 - Job loss
 - Health crisis
 - Divorce



The Effects of Homelessness

- **Homelessness is associated with:**
 - Worsening physical health
 - Poorer behavioral health, and
 - Increased psychological distress
- **Age and disability compound these risks**
- **3.5x higher mortality among older adults experiencing homelessness**



How can we prevent and reduce homelessness?

- Increase prevention services and supports
- Develop more affordable, accessible housing
- Make crisis systems accessible
- Strengthen data systems to identify needs, measure outcomes, and understand who is being missed



Innovative housing models

Bridge Meadows

Derenda Schubert, Ph.D.
CEO
Bridge Meadows



Bridge Meadows Communities

Portland, OR



Beaverton, OR



More Bridge Meadows Communities

Redmond, OR

Tacoma, WA



How Bridge Meadows Works



Interventions

- Housing Stability
- Therapeutic Services
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Recreational Activities
- Educational Programs
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Programs



Outcomes

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

100%

of youth graduate from
high school

95%

of residents maintain
stable housing

86%

of elders report meaning
and purpose in daily life

76%

of parents report a sense of
belonging in community

\$2.90

returned for every \$1
invested

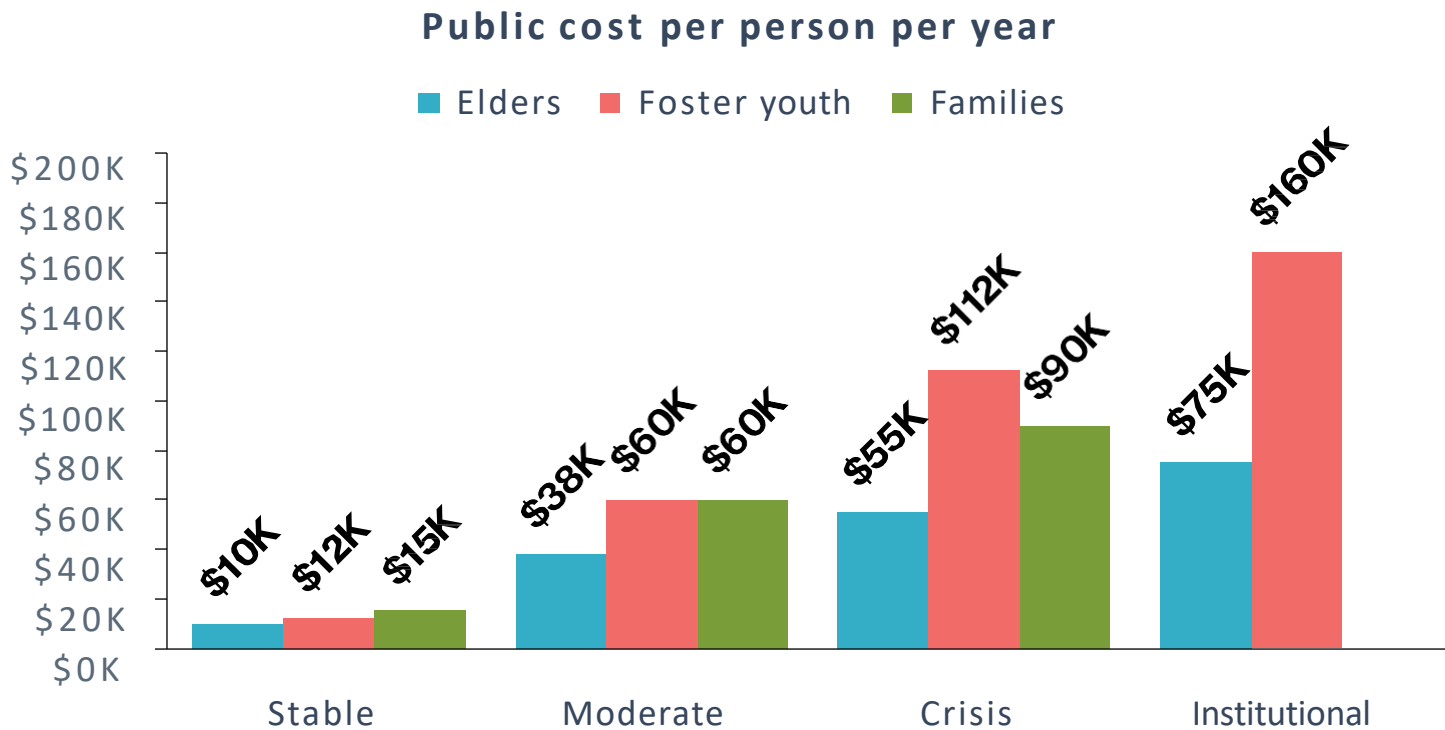
\$8.8M

in estimated annual public
cost savings

Across every generation, at every site, Bridge Meadows outcomes beat comparable national populations by 31 to 45 percentage points.

Public Cost Escalates as Stability Falls

WHAT INSTABILITY COSTS OREGON



Oregon reference points

\$2,561

per day for a child in emergency hotel placement

\$30K–\$198K

per youth per year in residential treatment

\$45K–\$90K

per family per year in the shelter and crisis system

Sources: Oregon Health Authority Medicaid rate schedules (2023–24); Oregon DHS Child Welfare foster care payment rates (2023–24); Multnomah County / Portland Joint Office of Homeless Services (2023). Family costs are not tracked at the institutional tier.

A Family Story



Bridge Meadows



Innovative housing models: Home Share Oregon

Candice Smith
Executive Director/CEO
HomeShare Oregon



HomeShare Oregon



House “Rich” Widow



Evicted



Divorced



Displaced



Housing necessity



Home sharing isn't new



Victorian house with sign advertising rooms for rent: Oregon Historical Society, 1910-1924

Oregon's hidden housing capacity

6.7 spare bedrooms
for every older renter experiencing
housing cost burden

462,811

spare bedrooms in older
homeowners' homes

69,612

older renters paying over
30% of income on rent

The affordability problem



A home can be someone's greatest asset and greatest financial burden.

The idea is old



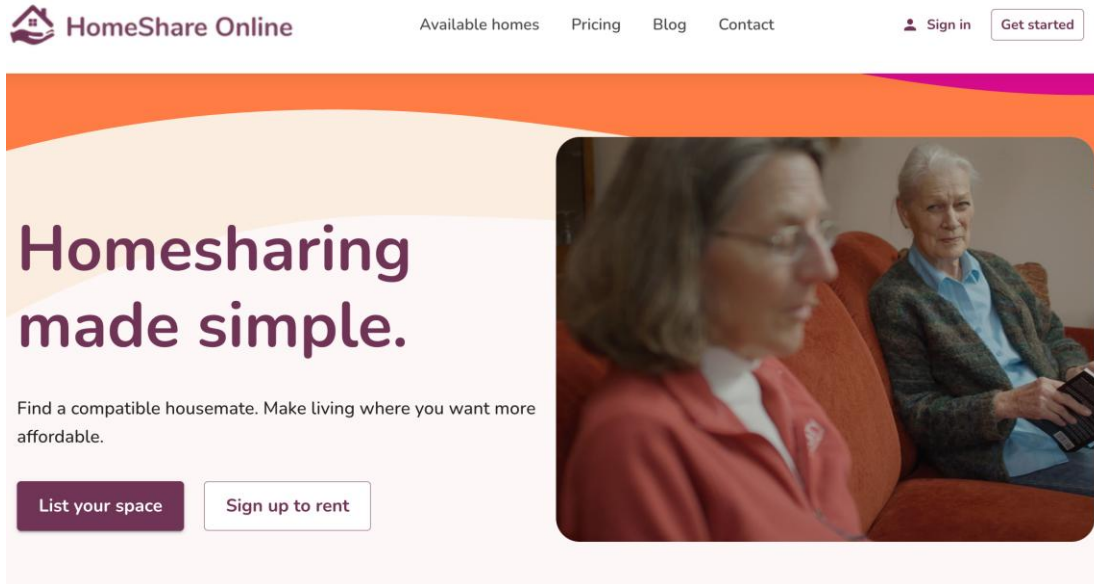
- A room-for-rent advertisement.
- A phone call.
- A first impression.
- **Hope for the best.**

The method is not

- Identity verification.
- Background screening.
- Compatibility matching.
- **Time to get acquainted.**



One model, different levels of support



More Security. More Connection. **More Room to Live.**

Whether you have a room to offer or a room to find,
HomeShare Online matches you with the right person and supports you every step of the way.

[For Home Providers](#) [For Renters](#)

The only nonprofit home sharing platform built for people who want to stay
rooted in the communities they call home.
Thousands of successful matches have been made since 2021.

What Oregon's early experience tells us

4,715
participants

2023-25 State of Oregon Home Sharing Pilot

What we're learning from Portland



[Home](#) / [Housing Bureau](#)

Home Sharing Pilot Program

Information



12-month home sharing pilot program begins February 2026.

What one spare bedroom can change

AN ILLUSTRATIVE OREGON HOUSEHOLD

Monthly Social Security Income	\$1,990
Monthly Expenses	\$2,147
WITHOUT SHARING	WITH SHARING
-\$157	+543
Monthly shortfall	Monthly cushion

Assumes \$700 monthly room income, before taxes and additional household costs.

Where home sharing fits in the housing landscape



Housing stability

Affordable options
and
aging in place



Community support

Trusted partners and
additional
assistance



Outcome learning

Financial security
and long-term
stability

Making better use of the housing Oregon already has.



In conclusion

THE IDEA IS OLD.

The method is not.

The housing exists.

HomeShare Oregon

homeshareoregon.org

APD services



General Assistance Program

Collaborative Disability
Determination Unit (CDDU)

April Read

General Assistance Housing Support Specialist
Oregon Department of Human Services



What is General Assistance (GA)?

Short-term housing assistance for people with severe disabilities who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.



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Basic GA Eligibility Criteria

- 18-64 years of age
- Homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness
- Meet all eligibility criteria of SSI
- Have disabling conditions that are determined to meet SSA disability criteria
- Pursue SSI benefits and sign Interim Assistance Agreement (IAA)

GA Intake Process

- After a referral, GA assigns a CDDU Disability Analyst
- Disability Analyst fills out forms, releases, and medical, legal and lay evidence
- Application packet reviewed for medical decision based on SSA disability standards.
- Applicant is interviewed for financial eligibility.



GA and housing

Goal: To help clients obtain and maintain housing.

How it works



- Rental payments sent directly to landlords
- Utility allowance and cash assistance are paid directly to the client
- The utility and rental payments are designed to be sustainable

GA provides support

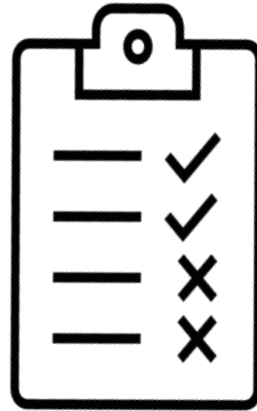


- Assesses opportunities and barriers to housing
- Collaborates with community partners on GA recipients' behalf
- Helps navigate systems and identify housing options

What GA can cover

GA can

- Pay rent to a family member or friend
- Pay rent on a standard lease agreement
- Pay rent to an RV park
- Cover fees and rent to transitional and sober living houses
- Provide written verification of GA benefits



GA cannot

- Pay rent on a unit that is subsidized by HUD
- Pay application fees, deposit, or other move in costs
- Give a character reference

How to make a referral

- Anyone can make a referral
- General Assistance/DBL Referral form 4640.
- GA brochure, form 7215.
- Submit by email to:
DBL.referral@dhsoha.oregon.gov

Oregon Department of Human Services

Clear form Print

Disability Benefits Liaison and General Assistance Referral Form

Referral to Disability Analyst

Date:	District:	Branch:
Customer name:	Customer Social Security number (SSN):	Customer date of birth:
Customer phone number:	Customer email:	
Customer address:		
Prime number:	Case number:	
Case manager:	Case manager's phone number:	

Referral criteria (please check all that apply):

☐ Condition is expected to last 12-months or more or result in death, and prevents the individual from obtaining and/or maintaining gainful employment.

☐ Customer has an active Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) claim.

☐ Customer is a Program 5 (Presumptive Medicaid) recipient.

☐ Customer has an attorney or authorized representative.
Name: Phone:

☒ Customer is experiencing homelessness or is at risk of homelessness.

Comments:



GA Referral Form

To find out about the GA program, submit this form to your Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) worker or to an ODHS office near you.

Date:

Name:

Date of birth:

Phone:

Email:

Mailing address:

Referral source:

Emergency contact name:

Emergency contact phone:

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ I think my disability will last 12 months or more.
- ☐ My disability keeps me from working.
- ☐ I am homeless or at risk of being homeless.
- ☐ I do not have minor children living with me.

Program Contacts

CDDU Central Office

1-866-535-8431

April Read Housing Specialist

April.Read2@odhs.oregon.gov

(971) 718-1271

Chris Ellis

CDDU Program Manager

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(503) 373-2305

CDDU Policy Analyst

Sonya.G.Presleigh-Bennett@odhs.oregon.gov

(503) 400-5871

[Email address for April Read.](#)

Sonya Presleigh Bennett

Housing Support Services

Beth Jackson

Medicaid State Plan and Waiver Policy Analyst
and Statewide Lead for Housing Support
Services

Oregon Department of Human Services



Housing Support Services

Housing Support Services are available to help individuals meet their housing goals.

- For Service Priority Level (SPL) 1-13 or Extended Waiver Eligibility (EWE)
- Helps with maintaining or obtaining tenancy in-home
 - Must have care needs that can be met in-home
 - Have housing goals that meet Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) for
 - An allowable in-home service living arrangement
 - Consumer-Employer Responsibilities, if not using an In-Home Care Agency
- Need to want to participate in working toward housing goals

Important background information

- Approved under Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) 1915(c) Waiver
- Not available for:
 - Oregon Project Independence (OPI)
 - Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid (OPI-M)
 - State Plan Personal Care (SPPC)

In action

Housing Navigators, located throughout the state, provide the Housing Support Services.

- Assistance is both hands-on and in coordination with others
- The support often involves multiple calls and emails per week
- Travel can take up to two hours roundtrip in rural areas to see individuals
- Approximately 30 hours are spent with each individual per year to reach housing goals

Adult Day Services

Lindsay Vanderworker

Adult Day Service Coordinator

APD Medicaid Policy Unit

Oregon Department of Human Services



Overview



- Health and social support in a structured, safe environment
- Participants attend during the day and return home or to their care setting
- The number of days a consumer participates varies

Adult Day Services

Services may include:

- Personal care for activities of daily living
- Behavioral support
- Basic nursing services
- Physical and cognitive exercise
- Classes
- Meals
- Art therapy
- Community outings
- Roundtrip transportation at some centers



Eligibility

Eligible for Medicaid-reimbursed services

Eligible for Long-Term Services and Supports

Supported through natural supports, in-home services,
or an adult foster home

Certified adult day service facility in the area

Not eligible

Residents of nursing, assisted living, and residential
care facilities

ICP participants



When Adult Day Services are Helpful



**When there are not
enough providers**

A person with concerning risks has assistance during the evenings but is home alone during the day.

When Adult Day Services are Helpful: Respite



To provide respite

An individual risks losing caregivers because of the emotional strain of their care.

When Adult Day Services are Helpful: Community Connection



Community Connection

A consumer's condition makes it challenging to meet social needs.

Making a Referral



Verify that a Medicaid-contracted facility is in the area



Check availability



Confirm the individual or their representative is interested



Obtain Central Office approval for individuals living in an adult foster home

Questions

Lindsay Vanderworker

Adult Day Service Coordinator

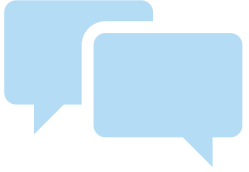
LINDSAY.R.VANDERWORKER@odhs.oregon.gov

Questions and discussion



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Let's engage!



- What is one thing that you might do differently after today?
- What is one thing you want to explore or learn more about?
- How will you apply or share one idea from today?

We welcome your feedback.
Scan the QR code with your phone's
camera to take a short survey.



Thank you!



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