

Director's Message



April 12, 2016

Partners and Stakeholders:

I wanted to update you on a few things happening at Oregon Housing and Community Services.

First, as you likely know, the Secretary of State Audit Division has been examining conducting a performance audit of OHCS for several months. After meeting with internal staff, leadership, the Housing Stability Council, and external partners, the Audit Division is interested in conducting a performance audit to answer the question: *“What actions can OHCS take to best preserve the affordable housing stock in Oregon?”*

This is a very good and broad public policy question, as well as also being quite complex. We here at OHCS are looking forward to seeing the results of their work, and will welcome suggestions for how we can strengthen our effectiveness at ensuring properties we have helped to finance will remain affordable and in service for as long as possible. In addition to this primary objective, the auditors are likely to also look at internal systems, including procurement, data systems, and progress we are making on our strategic and operational plans.

The Audit Division expects to work both with internal staff as well as external partners and stakeholders as they seek clarity and input on this critical question. Our conversations with the Audit Division have been very positive and we are eager for their recommendations. I appreciate your willingness as partners and stakeholders to participate in this important conversation.

There are a few other items worthy of mention today – the first of which is our April Housing Stability Council meeting. We were very pleased to welcome Governor Brown to the meeting to discuss with the Council her vision for the work of the agency and the Council over the next year. In addition, we were pleased to watch her sign several bills into law, including her own priority bill, [SB 1582](#), which provides guidance to the Department regarding the LIFT program.

As you have heard me say before, we are very excited by the new leadership being shown by the Housing Stability Council. When we presented HB 2442 to the 2015 Legislature, it was our hope that the agency would have the overarching policy body that it needed to guide its work. Today, we are on the verge of adding two new members to the Council, and at every meeting, they are working diligently to understand more of the work of the agency and provide us with guidance as we move forward.

In that spirit, we are also working to increase our communication regarding the Housing Stability Council. As you know, the Council meets the first Friday of every month, and their meeting agendas and packets are posted in advance on their [website](#). Starting in May, we will begin sending out the agendas via email for anyone who would like to receive a copy. You may sign



up for that email [here](#). (Simply click on “Join our E-News List,” and then select “Housing Stability Council Updates” to receive these notices.)

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that later this week, we will begin conducting our bi-annual Customer Service survey. This survey will be sent to people who have worked closely with the Department over the past twelve months and will measure how we're doing in providing customer service. Stay tuned.

Best regards,



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