

# Public Notice



## Oregon Housing and Community Services

March 13, 2020

### Re: OHCS Shelter Plan in Response to COVID-19

Partners and Stakeholders,

As we work as a community to prepare and respond to the impact of COVID-19, I wanted to share how OHCS will continue working with City, County, and Federal partners to develop and implement a coordinated COVID-19 response related to people experiencing homelessness. As with any public health or natural disaster emergency, those who are unhoused are often more at risk for poor health outcomes or other trauma. We understand that spread of communicable disease is much more likely without adequate access to hygiene facilities or a safe home, so we wanted to share a few resources as well as our plan to ensure shelter capacity. Like other cities, states, and nations, we are in uncharted waters, responding to new information daily from public health official leaders. Following guidelines from our public health officials regarding social distancing measures, we announce the immediate cancellation or postponement of our upcoming convening events.

As we continue to prioritize the well-being of our community and do our part to slow the spread of the virus, we also recognize the emphatic need for shelter capacity. Oregon communities are resilient and we will rely on that spirit now more than ever. There are a number of measures we are taking to ensure you and your staff have what you need to get through this situation while continuing to safely serve the community.

### [OHCS Shelter Plan](#)

The plan is to work with each Continuum of Care (as we did with Winter shelter) to determine feasibility of extending increased winter shelter capacity through May 31, 2020. You can find more resources on the OHCS COVID-19 Landing page, linked [HERE](#).

As a reminder, our shelter funding can go towards purchasing items geared toward sanitation and hygiene. Included are signage in English and Spanish that you may want to consider posting. With clear-headed, calm, and generous in spirit, we will get through this.

Thank you for all you do!

With Appreciation,  
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