

# Statewide Housing Plan 2019-2023: Breaking New Ground

## PRIORITY: RURAL COMMUNITIES

**Change the way OHCS does business in small towns and rural communities to be responsive to the unique housing and service needs and unlock the opportunities for housing development.**

### **2019–2023 GOAL**

OHCS will collaborate with small towns and rural communities to increase the overall supply of housing, including increasing OHCS-funded housing in rural areas by 75%. As a result of tailored services, partnerships among housing and service providers, private industry and local governments will flourish, leading to improved capacity and leveraging of resources.

### **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- » Facilitate access to OHCS resources and information by partners in Oregon's small towns and rural communities by building consistent and reliable working relationships with local service providers, development partners, city and county governments, and tribal communities.
- » Support collaboration and cooperation among and between existing and potential partners in small towns and rural communities to enhance capacity to advance projects and efforts that meet local housing and service needs.
- » Remove systemic barriers to accessing OHCS resources by tailoring programs intended to serve small towns and rural communities to the needs and context of those areas.
- » Advance collaboration among state agencies — in particular, Regional Solutions Cabinet agencies — to align and leverage funds to holistically address the needs of small towns and rural communities.
- » Emphasize programs to maintain the quality of the existing housing stock serving low-income households in small towns and rural communities, including manufactured housing, affordable rental housing and market-rate housing.
- » Engage the agricultural worker community to understand the housing and service needs of Oregon farmworkers and develop strategies to meet these needs.