

2019-2021 Biennium Investments:

2019 Session to August 2020 Special Session



At the close of the 2019 session, OHCS received over \$336.5 million to address needs across the housing spectrum from homelessness to homeownership. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic and economic reality has led to reprioritization of state funds and OHCS saw some programs reduced or closed. Additionally, federal and state policymakers made investments in housing supports for Oregonians impacted by COVID.

Affordable Rental Housing Division

- **NEW: \$26M** investment in **Affordable Rental Housing COVID Response Fund**—an operational loan program to support affordable housing providers that have seen a decrease in their rent rolls, loans will be forgiven as tenant rent is forgiven. *OHCS received \$20M of Coronavirus Relief Funds during the June Emergency Board Meeting and a \$6M during the August Special Session*
- **\$200M** ~~\$150M~~—The **Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing Program** provides housing to underserved populations, namely communities of color and rural communities. *\$50M investment to the LIFT program in the August Special Session*
- **\$7.5M** for the development of **affordable housing in Umatilla County** in response to devastating flooding in February 2020. *OHCS received these resources during the March Emergency Board Meeting.*
- **\$50M** funding for development of **Permanent Supportive Housing** and **\$1.5M** ~~\$4.5M~~ for operations and supportive services in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority. *Rental assistance resources reduced in the August Special Session. Due to development delays and other rental assistance resources, the program will not be impacted.*
- **\$0** ~~\$25M~~—The first step in increasing supply is **preserving existing affordable housing**. *Lottery Bond sales canceled due to economic impact on lottery revenue, OHCS lost these preservation resources.*
- **\$0** ~~\$15M~~—**Acquisition of attainable rental market housing** would have allowed OHCS to quickly increase the supply of affordable housing. *Lottery Bond sales canceled due to economic impact on lottery revenue, OHCS does not have funds to establish this program.*
- **\$0** ~~\$5M~~—The **Greater Oregon Housing Accelerator** would have helped local governments and employers bring new housing for workers. *Investment reallocated during the August Session, program cancelled.*

Homeownership Division

- **NEW: Oregon Homeownership Stabilization Initiative** received permission from US Treasury to re-open a mortgage assistance program with approximately **\$20M** in recycled federal Hardest Hit Funds.

OHCS 2019-2021 Biennium State Investments:

2019 Session to August 2020 Special Session

Homeownership Division...

- **\$12M ~~\$15M~~** House Bill 2896 and Senate Bill 586 provide additional protections and opportunities for residents of **manufactured housing**. *A \$3M investment in a new manufactured home park removed during the August Special Session.*
- **\$1.5M** Funding to support the **Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance** program and other homeowner-ship counseling.

Housing Stabilization Division

- **NEW: \$8.5M** investment in **rental assistance** for Oregonians impacted by COVID. *Resources allocated during the April Emergency Board meeting.*
- **NEW: \$3.5M** investment in **safe sheltering** during the COVID pandemic for Oregon's farmworkers. *Resources allocated during the April Emergency Board meeting.*
- **NEW: \$55M** in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds for **rent assistance**. *Resources allocated during the June Emergency Board meeting.*
- **NEW: \$15M** in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds for **utility assistance**. *Resources allocated during the June Emergency Board meeting.*
- **NEW: \$2M** to support the **Individual Development Account program**. *Resources allocated during the August Special Session.*
- **NEW:** OHCS received federal additional resources in the [CARES Act](#) for rent and utility assistance and homelessness resources, a total of **\$7.9M in Community Services Block Grants**, **\$56.2M in Emergency Solution Grants (ESG)**, and **\$9.5M in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program**. *During the August Special Session, OHCS received flexibility in administering \$43M of ESG resources.*
- **\$45M** Funding the **Emergency Housing Account (EHA)** and the **State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP)** to provide assistance to Oregonians who are homeless or unstably housed and at risk of becoming homeless.
- **\$6M** to provide **rental market resources** as Oregon's tight, dynamic housing market requires.
- **\$5M** dedicated to strengthening **shelter capacity**.
- **\$5.1 ~~\$14.5M~~** of federal **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** funds to help families avoid or escape homelessness through partnership with the Department of Human Services. *Investment reallocated during the August Session, the Housing Stabilization Program funds remain but a pilot program is cancelled.*
- The Legislature will **sunset the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Program** in May 2021, *included in House Bill 4304 passed during the August Special Session.*

Updated 9/2/2020

[Nicole Stoenner](#), Senior Legislative & Government Relations Coordinator