

In the last three biennia, the Oregon Legislature has dramatically increased resources to address Oregon's homeless crisis. However, it has been more than 30 years since Oregon has examined the homeless services system. **House Bill 2100** makes key reforms to the system and establishes the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities to examine the system's funding structure and make recommendations for the 2022 session. HB 2100 does not create a new homeless service system, but it opens the door to reimagine our system in response to Oregon's current homelessness crisis.



Oregon has the **highest rate of unsheltered homelessness** in the nation; 52.8% of families experiencing homelessness don't have shelter

US Department of Housing and Urban Development, [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#)

House Bill 2100 Includes Key Statutory Updates

HB 2100 represents the first major statutory modernization for Oregon's homeless services system in more than 30 years. The updated statute:

- Advances racial equity in homeless services programs: Defines culturally specific organization, culturally responsive organization, and culturally responsive services, sets performance standards for grantees to engage Oregon's diverse communities and allows access to state dollars for the purpose of addressing disproportionate homelessness amongst BIPOC communities.
- Confirms and clarifies the roles of Community Action Agencies and OHCS in administering federal antipoverty programs and distinguishes these from homeless assistance resources.
- Codifies the State Homelessness Assistance Program (SHAP) and Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHA) as programs under the Emergency Housing Account and confirms a focus on outcomes for both programs.
- Establishes SHAP as a program to serve people experiencing homelessness, explicitly naming unsheltered homelessness as a priority for the first time.
- Expands partners advising OHCS as we collectively address and end homelessness.
- Requires OHCS to administer federal programs with the advice of the Housing Stability Council
- Establishes the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities to make recommendations on an optimal funding structure for homeless services resources, leveraging the expertise of people with lived experience, urban and rural homeless service providers, Community Action Agencies, culturally specific organizations, local governments, and more.

	Current statute	HB 2100: Modernizing Oregon’s Homeless System
Who can provide advice to OHCS and the Housing Stability Council on homeless services resources?	Community Action Partnership of Oregon	Community Action Partnership of Oregon, Oregonians with lived experiences of homelessness, tribes, public housing authorities, continuums of care, local governments, nonprofits, homeless service providers, culturally specific organizations, Veteran serving organizations, housing providers, and more.
What do the Oregon Revised Statutes governing homeless services say about racial equity?	Silent	HB 2100 includes multiple approaches to move toward racial equity in the homeless services system. The bill creates performance expectations for culturally responsive services and codifies performance standards for Community Action Agencies to engage culturally specific service providers in their planning. It also opens pathways for culturally specific service providers to advise OHCS on homeless service programs, and to apply directly for homeless service dollars within regional set-asides.
How does the statute address the use of best practices and desired outcomes for homeless services?	Silent	HB 2100 would require outcome-oriented contracting for all homeless services funds and builds on years of work to center the end user—the Oregonian experiencing homelessness or housing instability. It would also create expectations for homeless service providers to use nationally and regionally recognized best practices for preventing and ending homelessness.
How does the statute address unsheltered homelessness?	Silent	HB 2100 establishes, for the first time in statute, the State Homelessness Assistance Program (SHAP) to serve all people experiencing homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness. SHAP is an existing program currently without statutory guidance.

What Comes Next?

Homeless services funds will continue to flow to Community Action Agencies while the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities meets to develop recommendations. Given the concurrent crises OHCS and our partners are responding to, this change would not—and should not—take place over night. The Task Force will explore funding processes and structures with the explicit direction to ensure minimal disruption to service delivery.

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