

Oregon Housing and Community Services

2023 Legislative Session



Improving Program Access

[Oregon's Statewide Housing Plan](#) called for centering racial justice and changing the way we do business in rural communities. OHCS has made progress where we can, and legislative investments are needed to realize the goals of this current plan.

\$7.3 million for Training & Technical Assistance

Capacity-building investments will support the development of long-lasting organizational strategies, systems, and structures to support culturally specific and/or rural serving organizations:

- OHCS funds will strengthen Oregon's nonprofit service providers:
 - Expand fiscal and contracting proficiency, grant writing, reporting, ongoing fund management and oversight, bookkeeping strategies for multiple government grants, etc.
 - Build organizational capacity for strategic planning, succession planning, data collection and analysis, etc.
- Direct allocation to the nine federally recognized Tribes to honor Tribal self-determination and to support maximum participation and collaboration.
- Multi-year grants contracts to support building the organizational infrastructure and capacity of organizations led by Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/x, Asian American and Pacific Islander people, and/or rural- and very rural-serving organizations. This would include specific educational opportunities and learning cohorts.
- Through a third party, identify and address internal capacity barriers to supporting small community providers.

\$1.7 million for Language Access

For the agency to provide language accessibility tools across all divisions, this investment will support multiple activities:

- Investments in translation and interpretation services and an assessment of existing practices and vital documents.
- Update the Limited English Proficiency data and agency plan.
- Develop and implement an agencywide American Sign Language (ASL) policy to improve access
- Develop procedures that lead to greater confidence in compliance with federal requirements and recognized best practices.

Listening to Service Providers and Community Leaders

OHCS heard from organizations to help refine this investment. This included a listening session focused on Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/x, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander-led and -serving organizations, a Spanish-speaking listening session, an opportunity to hear from the Affordable Housing Industry Anti-Racism Collaborative, conversations with rural elected officials, webinars, and a [survey](#). OHCS also engaged with the nine federally recognized Tribes and leaders.

Contact

Nicole Stingh, Assistant Director of Government Relations, nicole.stingh@hcs.oregon.gov.

