



OHCS' *DRAFT* 2023 Legislative Agenda

As policymakers at the federal and state level respond to our ongoing housing crisis, resources allocated to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) have dramatically increased. This past year was the most impactful in OHCS history, with hundreds of millions of dollars distributed in emergency response work and clear progress made on our Statewide Housing Plan (SWHP) goals. Our work provided a lifeline, ensuring thousands of Oregon's most vulnerable residents could remain stably housed, keep kids in school, provide supports to wildfire survivors, get keys to a new home, avoid slipping into homelessness, and provide compassion to Oregonians without housing.

As OHCS looks ahead to pursuing our mission in the next biennium, we're eager to work with our partners and elected officials to continue to be responsive to Oregon's housing crisis and meet SWHP goals through a robust legislative agenda that builds on the successful work underway. **OHCS brings forward the largest budget request in the Agency's history: more than \$800 million to invest in housing solutions.** These requests are more than double any other investments requests made by OHCS.

State agencies plan for legislative sessions far in advance, and developing a successful legislative agenda is an iterative process that involves collaboration and ongoing dialogue with all layers of agency staff and leadership, external partners and stakeholders, the Governor's office, and other state agencies. There are two main tools for state agencies to utilize: **Legislative Concepts (LCs)** that are used to amend Oregon statues and **Policy Option Packages (POPs)** that comprise investment requests above and beyond continuously appropriated resources that are included in **Current Service Level**.

OHCS submitted **LCs** to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and will continue to work until the end of May to finalize the details. All **POPs**, or investment requests, are collectively known as the **Agency Request Budget (ARB)** and will be submitted to DAS this summer. The *next* Governor then reviews the submitted ARB of each state agency in context of the available state resources to put forward their recommended budget to the Legislature. In crafting their budget, the Governor works to balance the vast needs of Oregonians, from healthcare to education to housing and beyond. The Governor's Budget will be released in January, which will include OHCS' final 2023 Legislative Agenda.

Developing the OHCS Legislative Agenda is complex in normal times. With the unprecedented growth of the agency, both in resources and expansion to new program areas, OHCS has had to mindfully consider our capacity and ability to deliver funds while developing **POPs**. And we led with our values. The following guiding principles were central to the design of our draft agenda:

- Build a sustainable, resilient response to housing instability by prioritizing proactive investments that take a **systemic, upstream** approach as well as **right-sizing the infrastructure** to ensure OHCS and partners can achieve the highest and best use of public funds.
- We acknowledge and take accountability for **government's role in creating and exacerbating housing disparities** and commit to re-examining these systems and structures, centering the voice of end users, especially communities of color, and using a racial equity lens when developing policy.
- Use the **Statewide Housing Plan**, both the policy priorities and guiding principles, as the framework for the agenda. *NOTE: This will be the last legislative agenda developed with the current plan.*

OHCS’ DRAFT 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA — OVERVIEW

The following overview tables represent the agency’s draft 2023 Legislative Agenda organized by Legislative Concepts (LCs) and Policy Option Packages (POPs). The LCs tagged as “**placeholders**” that OHCS may introduce, pending needs from developing POPs. LCs are also tagged as “**under development**” pending ongoing conversations with key partners and stakeholders. The second table includes POPs, all investment requests are for General Fund or Lottery-Backed Bonds resources unless otherwise indicated.

Legislative Concepts			
Affordable Rental Housing	Homeownership	Housing Stabilization	Agencywide
Private Activity Bonds for Affordable Housing [under development]	MMCRC Dispute Resolution [under development]	Repeal of Housing Choice Advisory Council (HCAC)	OHCS Statutory Clean-Up Bill [under development]
Mixed Income Housing Developments Statute Correction	Affordable Homeownership Development Program [placeholder]	Individual Development Accounts [placeholder]	Disaster Recovery & Resilience Housing Damage Relief Program [placeholder]
	Homeowner Protection Program [placeholder]	Placeholder for Homelessness Recommendations*	

**OHCS is requesting a bill to introduce as a placeholder pending recommendations from the Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities and the Interagency Council on Homelessness.*

Policy Option Packages							
Affordable Rental Housing		Homeownership		Housing Stabilization		Agencywide	
Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) Rental Program	\$200 M – Bonds	Homeowner Protection Program	\$13M	Individual Development Account (IDA) Investment	\$40M	Language Access Resources	\$1.2M
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program	\$10M + \$75M – Bonds	Affordable Homeownership Development Program	\$25M	Eviction Prevention Resources	\$60M	Training & Technical Assistance Support	\$25M
Affordable Housing Preservation Package	\$175 M	Resources for Homeowners of Manufactured Housing	\$8M	Long Term Rental Assistance (Youth & Families)	\$39M	Grant Management Solutions	TBD
Co-Location (CARE)	\$20M	Foreclosure Counseling Resources	\$2M	Shelter Investments	\$70.5 M	Disaster Recovery & Resilience Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Admin Approval (no state funding request)	
Land Acquisition Program (LAP)	\$10M	Down Payment Assistance with Flex Lending	\$25M	Data Coordination (HMIS)	\$2M		

Authorize Family Self-Sufficiency for Section 8 Portfolio (no state funding request)

Over \$800M in investments

OHCS' DRAFT 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA — DETAILS

The following pages present details on both legislative and investment concepts organized by programmatic areas, the legislative concepts are listed first and are indicated with , some concepts have both a statutory and resource component. The connection of each concept to the SWHP Priorities are indicated by the icons listed below. Building on successful work already underway, as well as in recognition of capacity considerations of the agency and partners, this agenda intentionally focuses on adding “plug & play” resources or “expansions” to existing efforts. Further, in alignment with our guiding principles to ensure highest and best use of public resources, requests have also been designed with an eye to making efforts more systemic, pushing to upstream solutions for housing instability, making resource-delivering infrastructure right-sized, and advancing equity by explicitly addressing racial disparities. These highlighted dynamics are indicated throughout the agenda concepts.

STATEWIDE HOUSING PLAN PRIORITY AREAS



Equity and Racial Justice



Homelessness



Affordable Rental Housing



Permanent Supportive Housing



Homeownership



Rural Communities

BUDGET GROWTH CHARTS

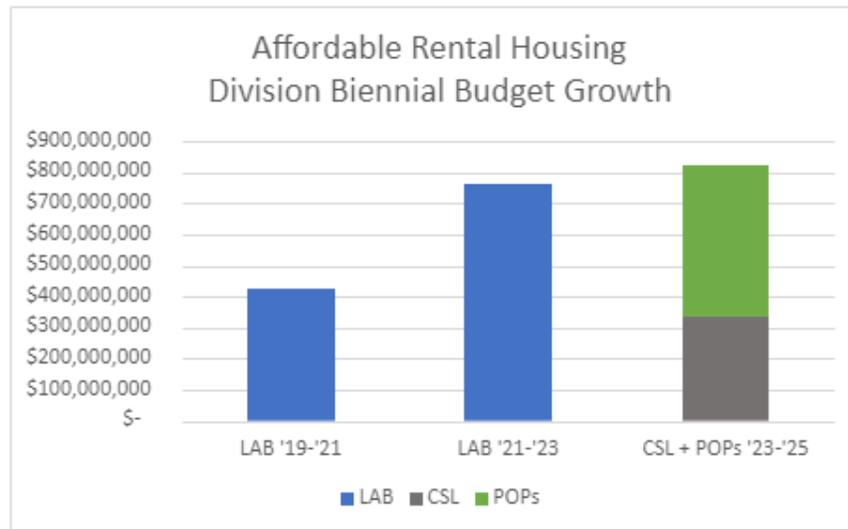
Embedded in each of the three primary programmatic areas—Affordable Rental Housing, Homeownership, and Housing Stabilization—is a chart displaying that division’s budget changes from the 2019-21 biennium, the current 2021-23 biennium, and the 2023-25 biennium as based on this ARB draft. For the past and current biennium, numbers are presented from the **Legislative Approved Budget (LAB)**. For the upcoming 2023-25 biennium, numbers are presented as **Current Service Level (CSL) plus** the resources that would be requested through the POPs in this Agency Request Budget. As you review the charts, please note:

- The Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB) includes the biennial Legislatively Adopted Budget (which includes Current Service Level), as well as Special Session appropriations, Emergency Board allocations, federal resources, and other funds received by the Agency outside of the standard biennial budget process.
- Current Service Level (CSL) are ongoing resources that are appropriated to the agency based on past commitments or expectations of federal and state resources. CSL investments for the next biennium are not detailed in this document. However, an estimate is included in each chart and includes ongoing program personnel and services costs adjusted for inflation.

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

Oregon’s [Housing Needs Analysis](#) found that the state must develop 584,000 homes over the next 20 years, and while we work to open doors in new homes we cannot afford to lose existing affordable housing. Oregon’s housing crisis is supply-driven; the primary solution to end homelessness are keys to safe, decent, and affordable places to call home for individuals and families. Just as the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions brought unprecedented resources to OHCS to finance the development and preservation of affordable rental housing, the Affordable Rental Housing Division’s draft 2023 Legislative Agenda seeks to build on the progress of these prior investments. These requests endeavor to meet the true scale of need, adjust to volatile market cost drivers, and look toward a focused impact that furthers the bold vision of the SWHP. So far, OHCS has overseen the successful completion of 19,000 of the 25,000 new unit goal across the state by the end of Fiscal Year 2023, and this is the last resource request we will make under this SWHP.

Oregon’s ongoing affordable housing crisis not only demands continued investments to develop more affordable homes across the state but that we prioritize the preservation of our existing housing stock. More than 8,000 affordable homes have expiring affordability provisions over the next 8 years, and we risk losing hard-fought ground. Together these resources will allow OHCS to deploy an efficient toolkit of development resources within a framework that prioritizes equity and racial justice, provides service to rural communities, builds partnerships with local jurisdictions, and expands capacity building. The following investments will result in a robust and diverse affordable rental housing production pipeline.



PLEASE NOTE:

- Descriptions of **Legislative Approved Budget (LAB)** and **Current Service Level (CSL)** can be found on page 3 of this document.
- The '21-'23 LAB total includes the \$150M allocation for the Landlord Compensation Fund program approved during the December 2020 Special Legislative Session.
- The '23-'25 POP requests do not include tax credit resources (Low Income Housing Tax Credits, Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit, Agricultural Worker Housing Tax Credit), Document Recording Fee resources (General Housing Assistance Program), or other funds the Agency may receive outside the standard state biennial budget process.

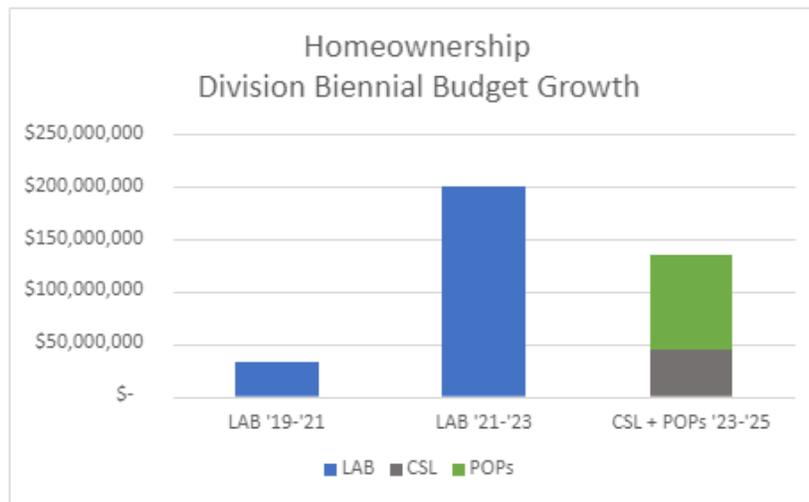
Concept	Biennium Investment	Description	Statewide Housing Plan
<p> Private Activity Bonds (PAB) for Affordable Housing</p> <p>systemic</p>	<p>N/A – <i>although this could lead to securing resources &/or improved leveraging of resources</i></p>	<p>The statewide pipeline of affordable housing development far exceeds the amount of PAB that OHCS and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) receive. Moreover, there is currently no way to coordinate ARH project selection for PAB resources across entities in the State creating uncertainty in the number of projects that can be completed. This concept would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the level of PAB allotted by the Oregon Legislature to affordable housing. 2. Increase the total amount of PAB awarded to developments. 3. Give greater flexibility in the timeline for awards. <p>OHCS is developing this concept in conjunction with ongoing conversations and will submit additional details to DAS as those conversations unfold.</p>	
<p> Mixed-Income Housing Developments Statute Correction</p> <p>systemic</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Oregon Revised Statute 456.620 restricts OHCS from investing resources for affordable housing where more than 30% of homes in a development are not restricted to 120% area median income (AMI), even if OHCS funds do not subsidize non-restricted units.</p> <p>In the present development climate, providing some number of affordable units in a larger market housing development provides much-needed units, providing housing for a broader spectrum of housing needs. It will retain the Council’s authority to establish mixed income development limits.</p>	
<p>Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) Rental Resources</p> <p>plug & play</p>	<p>\$200M – Article XI-Q Bond</p>	<p>This package addresses the ongoing lack of affordable rental housing supply in Oregon and continues production momentum across the State. LIFT focuses on developing new affordable homes for rent that serve historically underserved communities, including rural areas of the State and communities of color. This investment is projected to generate appx 1,500 additional homes across the State.</p>	

<p>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</p> <p>plug & play</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>right-sizing</p> <p>upstream</p>	<p>\$10M – General Fund + \$75M – Article XI-Q Bond</p>	<p>PSH is a proven method to address chronic homelessness and improve outcomes for Oregonians. This package provides housing development funds coupled with resources for supportive tenancy services and rental assistance for residents. Additionally, OHCS is exploring a risk mitigation component of the PSH program to support the long-term operations of PSH developments. This investment is projected to create approximately 500 additional affordable homes.</p>	
<p>Affordable Housing Preservation Package</p> <p>expansion</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>upstream</p>	<p>\$175M – General Fund &/or Lottery-Backed Bonds</p>	<p>Oregon’s housing crisis demonstrates the importance of investments to secure our current affordable housing stock. This package will support the preservation of Oregon’s existing housing in four ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishes a continuous resource to finance the acquisition of <u>Publicly Supported Housing (PuSH)</u> properties with expiring affordability and/or termination of federal subsidies. More than 8,000 affordable homes will have their affordability periods expire in the next eight years. 2. Capital resources to address life, health, and safety concerns for affordable housing developments. Resources can also extend the affordability period for affordable housing. 3. Provide resources for modest rehab, climate retrofitting, and operating resources to properties within the Agency portfolio as interventions to resolve and recast budgets of struggling properties to avoid burdensome rent increases on residents. OHCS is exploring this new preservation concept with stakeholders. 4. Acquire and rehab manufactured home parks that will be owned by nonprofits and cooperative ownership (co-ops). 	
<p>Co-Location (“CARE” — Co-location of Affordable Rental Housing and Early Care & Education)</p>	<p>\$20M – General Fund</p>	<p>OHCS is seeking additional resources to expand opportunities to co-locate affordable housing and early care and education needs. This POP will add to the \$10M investment made during the 2021 session. OHCS will request the release of these funds to the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board in June 2022 to support implementation of</p>	

<p>expansion systemic upstream equity</p>		<p>recommendations from a recent report. Additional investments will address two critical issues present in every Oregon community: the lack of affordable housing and early care and education.</p>	
<p>Land Acquisition Program (LAP) plug & play</p>	<p>\$10M – General Fund or Lottery-Backed Bonds</p>	<p>The Land Acquisition Program (LAP) provides a loan to governmental agencies or nonprofits to purchase available development property in their community. The loan allows these eligible entities to purchase the land quickly while it is available and refine development plans at a later date. OHCS staff anticipate this will be the last infusion of resources before the fund begins to revolve.</p>	
<p>Authorize Family Self-Sufficiency for Section 8 Portfolio systemic upstream</p>	<p>No state investment request, position authority only</p>	<p>HUD’s Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) program has been successfully helping Public Housing residents and Section 8 tenants achieve economic self-sufficiency for over 25 years. This concept will simply authorize staffing and expenditures needed to expand the successful FSS program into HUD Multifamily Housing, promoting the program to owners and managers of HUD multifamily properties, creating an FSS program manual and necessary forms for owners and managers, educating tenants and providing linkages to proven self-sufficiency resources.</p>	
<p>Total Affordable Rental Housing Investment Requests: \$490 million</p>			

HOMEOWNERSHIP

The Homeownership Division’s draft 2023 Legislative Agenda will develop and expand our existing programs to assist Oregonians in achieving and maintaining affordable homeownership. We will continue to work towards our goals within the Statewide Housing Plan with a particular focus on decreasing the homeownership gap experienced by communities of color. We will continue advancing our equity and racial justice work through program design, expanding partner engagement, and addressing both the challenges and opportunities for homeowners of manufactured housing. Further, we will continue to provide training and technical assistance to our partners and increase opportunities to partner with organizations with which we currently do not have a working relationship.



PLEASE NOTE:

- Descriptions of **Legislative Approved Budget (LAB)** and **Current Service Level (CSL)** can be found on page 3 of this document.
- The '21-'23 biennium includes the \$90 million federal Homeowner Assistance Fund Program and the \$15 million counseling investment we received during the 2022 Legislative Session as part of the \$400 million housing investment.
- The '23-'25 POP requests do not include Homeownership Assistance Program (HOAP) funded by the Document Recording Fee and the Construction Excise Tax, and fees paid by manufactured home parks and marinas.

Concept	Biennium Investment	Description	Statewide Housing Plan
 Manufactured Home and Marina Community Resource Center (MMCRC) Dispute Resolution	N/A	The Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee (DRAC) was established by SB 586 (2019) to oversee mandatory mediation for manufactured home parks and pilot grants to fund legal representation for low-income manufactured home park tenants. The DRAC and grant authority expire in January 2024, and OHCS is polling DRAC members to determine if the sunset should be extended.	  

DRAFT 2023 Legislative Agenda – May 9, 2022

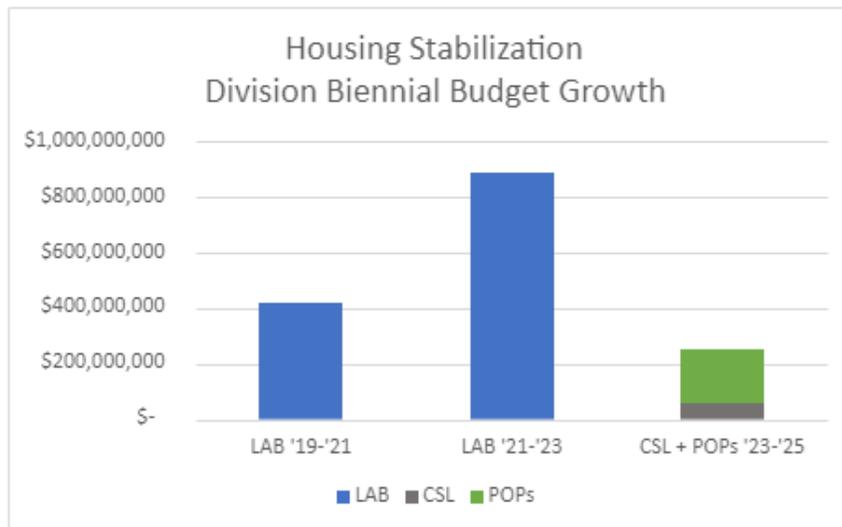
<p> Homeowner Protection Program</p> <p>upstream</p>	<p>\$13M – General Fund</p>	<p>OHCS is seeking resources to create a long-term state-funded mortgage relief program to provide long-term protection and financing for homeowners in Oregon at risk of foreclosure. Program elements will be similar to the federally funded Homeownership Assistance Fund (HAF) program, which is slated to close in the 2023-25 biennium. OHCS is considering targeting this program toward elderly Oregonians on fixed incomes.</p>	
<p> Affordable Homeownership Development Program</p> <p>expansion</p>	<p>\$25M – General Fund</p>	<p>Continue funding for the Homeownership Development Program, which will fund the construction of affordable homes for purchase. OHCS will continue to explore and develop flexible homeownership development programs. OHCS is beginning stakeholder engagement for the 2021 state investment. Save the links below!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 25th at 9 AM • June 14th at 1 PM 	
<p>Resources for Homeowners of Manufactured Housing</p> <p>plug & play</p> <p>right-sizing</p>	<p>\$8M – General Fund</p>	<p>This request is to continue funding for programs to help homeowners of manufactured homes improve their living conditions. The program provides grants to decommission and dispose of their older home and loans to purchase a replacement. These funds may also include additional resources to provide counseling to help homeowners navigate the lending program.</p>	
<p>Foreclosure Counseling Resources</p> <p>expansion</p>	<p>\$2M – General Fund</p>	<p>OHCS is seeking continued funding for foreclosure counseling, including Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance (OFA) and Foreclosure Avoidance Counseling (FAC) resources. As OHCS continues to develop our ARB, this concept may be incorporated as a part of the Homeowner Protection Program POP described above.</p>	
<p>Down Payment Assistance with Flex Lending</p> <p>expansion</p> <p>equity</p>	<p>\$25M – General Fund</p>	<p>OHCS will add additional funds to the down payment assistance (DPA) resource that will be available with the forthcoming Flex Lending Program. This would be a DPA resource outside and on top of the Homeownership Assistance Program (HOAP) DPA that is administered by community partners across the state.</p>	

Total Homeownership Investment Requests: \$73 million

HOUSING STABILIZATION

As OHCS transitions away from large federal emergency programs, we know we must be thoughtful and deliberate to continue to keep Oregonians stably housed. The Housing Stabilization Division’s draft 2023 Legislative Agenda is pursuing concepts that build on the Legislature’s investments over the last two years, are grounded in stakeholder and legislative feedback, and focus on creating a system of care to help Oregonians stay in their homes to stop the influx of people experiencing homelessness.

Housing retention is central to our proposed concepts for the coming biennium, as we aim to invest further in eviction prevention with a special focus on preventing youth and families from experiencing homelessness. Looking to elevate upstream opportunities, we also plan to seek additional one-time funds to clear the state’s Individual Development Accounts (IDA) waitlist to ensure Oregonians are able to meet their financial goals to achieve a higher degree of security and stability. Furthermore, we plan to continue our work to expand and improve data management, and request further funding for shelter and homeless services. And finally, we will be focusing on the collaborative efforts by holding space for concepts that would allow us to stand up an Interagency Council on Homelessness and address forthcoming recommendations from the Taskforce on Homelessness and Racial Disparities.



PLEASE NOTE:

- Descriptions of **Legislative Approved Budget (LAB)** and **Current Service Level (CSL)** can be found on page 3 of this document.
- This chart does not include funds deployed by the Energy Services Section of the Housing Stabilization Division.
- The '19-'21 LAB total includes more than \$307 million in additional emergency funding that was received by the agency for programs such as both state and federal emergency rental assistance programs, Wildfire Damage Housing Relief, and additional funds via Community Services Block Grant and the Emergency Solutions Grant programs from Congressional COVID response packages.
- The '21-'23 LAB total includes more than \$733 million in additional emergency funding that was received by the agency for programs such as both state and federal emergency rental assistance programs, Wildfire Damage Housing Relief, and additional funds via Community Services Block

Grant and the Emergency Solutions Grant programs from Congressional COVID response packages.

- The '23-'25 POP requests do not include ongoing CSL funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) or the State Homelessness Assistance Program (SHAP), or other funds the Agency may receive outside the standard state biennial budget process (Emergency Solution Grants and Community Solution Block Grants).

Concept	Biennium Investment	Description	Statewide Housing Plan
<p> Repeal of Housing Choice Advisory Committee (HCAC)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>OHCS is considering the repeal of both ORS 456.390 and 456.395, which established the Housing Choice Advisory Committee (HCAC), in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate ongoing duplication of efforts. 2. Streamline processes. 3. Remove redundancies in Oregon statute that require Public Housing Authorities (PHA) to report to OHCS and the Oregon Legislature <i>and</i> seek input and guidance from additional public bodies in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). <p>PHAs are already required to submit an annual report on the Housing Choice Voucher Program to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additionally, state and local entities have no compliance role in administering the HCVP, and OHCS does not administer any HCVP funds.</p>	
<p> Placeholder for Homelessness Recommendations</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>right-sizing</p> <p>equity</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>OHCS is planning to introduce a placeholder bill as a legislative vehicle to advance forthcoming recommendations from the ongoing Taskforce on Homelessness and Racial Disparities and/or the Interagency Council on Homelessness, which is being stood up by the Governor’s Office. Recommendations from these bodies are expected fall 2022 and beyond, thus this placeholder will be introduced with a broad “relating to homelessness” clause that would allow amendments, should there be statutory recommendations, to the bill during the legislative session.</p>	

<p> Individual Development Account (IDA) Investment</p> <p>plug & play</p> <p>upstream</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>right-sizing</p> <p>equity</p>	<p>\$40M – General Fund</p>	<p>This concept would increase investments in the existing and impactful IDA Program. Increased resources would be invested into the existing IDA framework across all 36 counties to facilitate program improvements, meet the program’s high demand by clearing the backlogged IDA waitlist. OHCS has also introduced a placeholder legislative concept should statutory changes be needed to clear IDA waitlist through one-time funding. It’s likely that OHCS will not introduce this bill if statutory updates are not needed to achieve the goals of this POP.</p>	
<p>Eviction Prevention Resources</p> <p>expansion</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>right-sizing</p> <p>upstream</p>	<p>\$60M – General Fund</p>	<p>This investment will extend the 2021 Special Session and 2022 Short Session one-time investments to build a more robust eviction prevention system over the short, middle and long term to ensure Oregonians remain stably housed. Our proposed investments will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local rental assistance funds through the Oregon Eviction Diversion and Prevention Program (OREDAP) • Legal services • Mediation services • Support for culturally responsive organizations • Other investments 	
<p>Long Term Rental Assistance (Youth and Families)</p> <p>expansion</p> <p>systemic</p>	<p>\$39M – General Fund</p>	<p>This POP extends and expands on the House Bill 2163 pilot program to establish a long-term statewide rental assistance program supporting individuals younger than 25-years-old and transitioning out of foster care, homelessness, behavioral health or treatment facility, corrections, or detention facility. The program is being introduced/piloted in three areas of the state, including one urban area, one rural area, and one coastal area. OHCS will refine this POP as the pilot program development continues and may expand target populations. OHCS is considering ways to align this request with our Permanent Supportive Housing program and may consider project-basing some of these funds.</p>	

<p>Shelter Investments</p> <p>expansion</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>right-sizing</p> <p>equity</p>	<p>\$70.5M – General Fund</p>	<p>This package would extend critical investments made by the Legislature to make permanent much needed programs like operational support for Project Turnkey investments, navigation centers, additional shelter funding with an explicit call out to work with culturally specific organizations and Tribes, and other supports to assist Oregonians in shelter to successfully find stable housing. We look forward to further discussion with partners about the critical investments needed in Oregon’s shelter system.</p>	
<p>Data Coordination (HMIS)</p> <p>plug & play</p> <p>systemic</p> <p>right-sizing</p>	<p>\$2M – General Fund</p>	<p>These proposed funds would improve the utilization of our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) system with continued funding of implementation as well as additional staff and dollars for licenses, with the goal of increasing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of shelters and service providers utilizing the HMIS system • Support given to HMIS users • Reporting capabilities • Connection to other data sets • Our ability to evaluate programs and measure statewide outcomes. 	
<p>Total Housing Stabilization Investment Requests: \$211.5 million</p>			

DISASTER RECOVERY & RESILIENCY

Even as a new program area within OHCS, Disaster Recovery and Resiliency’s draft 2023 Legislative Agenda actually includes the agency’s top priority effort: deploying Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) resources to help Oregon communities recover from the devastating 2020 Labor Day wildfires. OHCS is also working with partner agencies on two additional concepts, one in support of delivering CDBG-DR and one seeking to address the next disaster. OHCS is not requesting any state funds as we are deploying more than \$422 million in federal CDBG-DR resources. In addition to the Housing Damage Relief Program legislative concept, OHCS did submit a placeholder for potential disaster recovery construction procurement authority. However, the 2023 legislative timeline will not align with CDBG-DR programmatic needs, and OHCS is attempting to solve this barrier to rebuilding housing for Oregonians through other means.

Concept	Biennium Investment	Description	Statewide Housing Plan
 Housing Damage Relief Program	TBD	OHCS administered the Wildfire Damage Housing Relief Program after the 2020 fires to provide flexible funding for low- to moderate-income households to repair or replace housing damaged by wildfire. OHCS is working with the Oregon Department of Human Services on revisions to the current program, which may include changing the administrating agency.	   
CDBG-DR Admin Approval 2023-2025	N/A	This POP will include an expenditure limitation of approximately \$300M of the \$422M allocated by the federal government as part of CDBG-DR for the 2023-2025 biennium, including staffing. This POP will change as OHCS development the CDBG-DR Plan. The draft is currently published on OHCS’ website and open to public input until June 1 st . OHCS hopes to submit a final plan to HUD on June 8 th .	    

AGENCYWIDE

For the first time in the biennial ARB building process, OHCS’ central services and support sections developed their own legislative and investment concepts that will advance important internal and external infrastructure improvements in alignment with our guiding principle to **right-size** the program delivery infrastructure and coordinate major **equity**-centered initiatives across program areas. These improvements included agencywide training and technical assistance, language access and modernizing many of our ‘small’ agency technological resources. OHCS also seeks to remove administrative and access barriers in statute through two placeholder concepts.

Concept	Biennium Investment	Description	Statewide Housing Plan
<p> OHCS Statutory Clean-Up Bill</p> <p>equity</p> <p>right-sizing</p>	N/A	<p>This would be OHCS’ first statute clean-up bill in several biennium. OHCS is working with Department of Justice (DOJ) to identify and address barriers to efficient operations. This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity for procurement purchase authority and how the public contracting code applies to OHCS goods and services • Revisions to Housing Stability Council rulemaking role to create consistency in agency programs • General account statute clean-up – removing defunct account statutes, updating program names and removes unnecessary program requirements that conflict with program policy statute • Technical fixes to confirm income limits (Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit) and ensure tribal governments are eligible for to General Housing Account Program funds 	
<p>Language Access Resources</p> <p>right-sizing</p> <p>equity</p>	\$1.2M – General Fund	<p>This package addresses accessibility by including a dedicated position for translation and interpretation services, ensuring appropriate language access to OHCS programs. OHCS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office and Public Affairs Division will work jointly to increase contracts with translation and interpretation services and culturally specific organizations to improve access to OHCS programs for non-native English speakers.</p>	
<p>Training & Technical Assistance</p>	\$25M – General Fund	<p>This package will provide targeted supports, resources, and/or activities to community-based organizations, partners, Tribal partners and stakeholders focused on a multitude of</p>	

<p>systemic right-sizing equity</p>		<p>specialized services, skills and trainings. This investment will build the capacity of organizations throughout our program areas, supporting their ability to move their mission-critical work forward, and ensuring the system of housing providers, including OHCS, can effectively address the most pressing housing issues we face.</p>	
<p>Grant Management Solutions systemic right-sizing equity</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>This package requests to bring a robust grants management software solution to support multiple divisions and sections within the agency with critical business functions. A modern grants management software would enhance the agency’s ability to receive and deliver funds, to provide reports that allow for an accurate and current understanding of finances and services to Oregonians effectively and efficiently, and to better evaluate these program dynamics for future improvement. This POP will likely include staffing needs to address the OHCS’ rapid growth in program resources.</p>	
<p>Total Agencywide Investment Requests: \$26.2 million</p>			

NEXT STEPS

OHCS will host three webinars on each of the draft Legislative Agendas of the Affordable Rental Housing, Homeownership, and Housing Stabilization divisions on May 9th and 12th. An online survey will be open May 13th – 30th to collect feedback from partners and the public on the *draft* Legislative Agenda. The survey will have overall questions, as well as optional questions specific to program areas. This is a very iterative process, as OHCS engages with partners and works with the Department of Administrative Services and other state agencies, we anticipate changes to this DRAFT 2023 Legislative Agenda. Ultimately, the next Governor elected in November 2022 will determine the final OHCS 2023 Legislative Agenda.

Sign up for legislative updates from OHCS here:
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For more information, please visit:
<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/Pages/government-relations.aspx>