

Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

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History and Objectives

Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order No. 22-21 on October 7, 2022, establishing the Interagency Council on Homelessness with the purpose of:

- aligning state programs, policies, and supports for people experiencing homelessness across the state, and
- driving progress toward preventing and ending homelessness statewide.

The inaugural meeting took place on October 10, 2022.



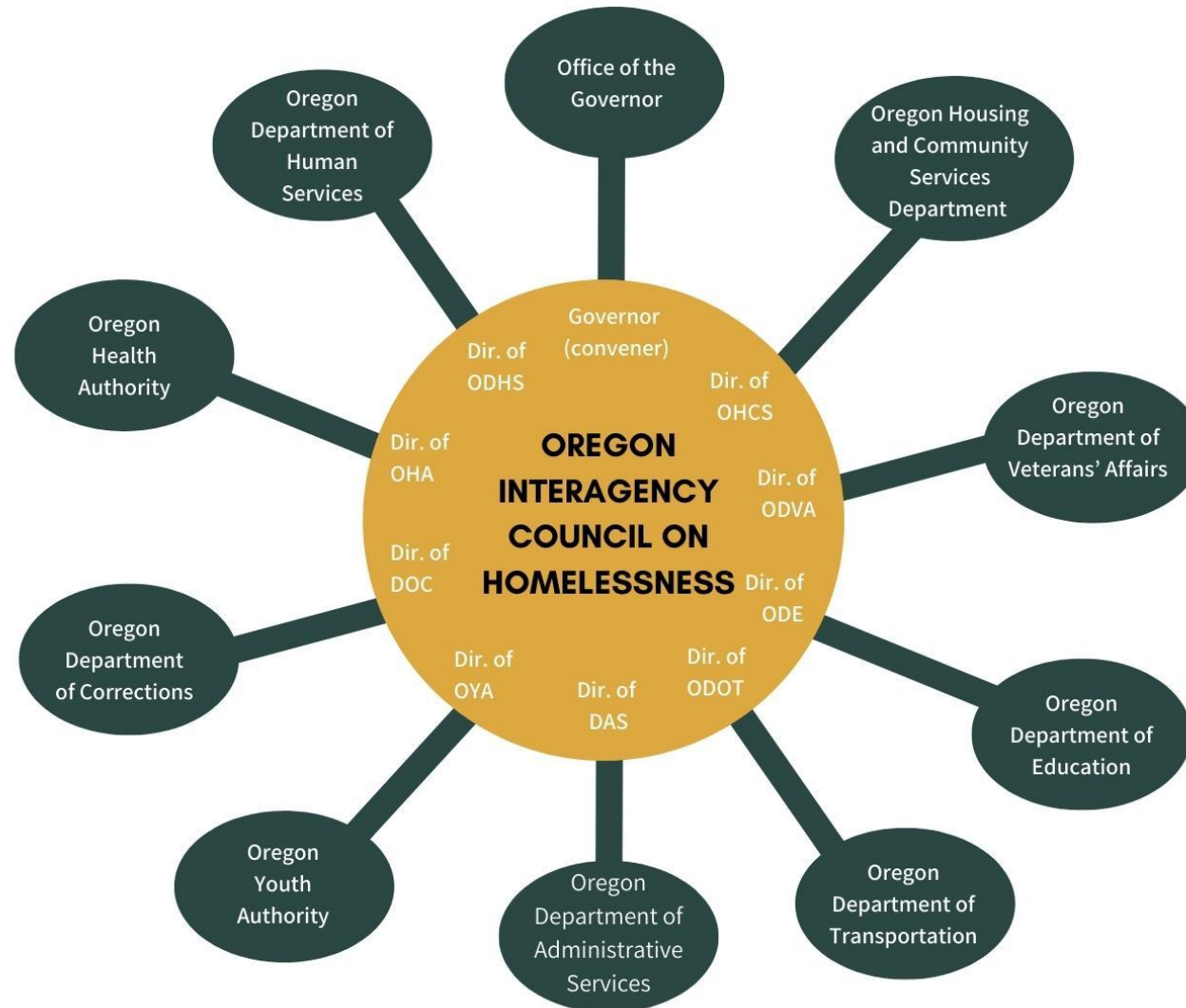
Guiding Principles

- 1 Every resident of Oregon deserves a safe, stable, affordable place to live and thrive.
- 2 As highly vulnerable members of our communities, people experiencing homelessness and severe housing instability should be prioritized for state services and supports to ensure the safety, health, and thriving of all of Oregon's residents.
- 3 There is no “wrong door” to access state-funded services and supports.
- 4 State agencies must transform their relationships with local communities in order to achieve the local outcomes necessary to achieve statewide goals.
Human-centered, compassionate, and evidence-based approaches to preventing and ending homelessness are necessary to building an equitable, just Oregon.
- 5 Explicitly anti-racist policies and culturally specific services are necessary and must be prioritized to redress the disparate impact of homelessness on communities of color, LGBTQIA+ youth, and other marginalized communities, and to prevent and end homelessness for all.
- 6 People who have experienced homelessness have critical knowledge, skills, and abilities to inform and lead systems improvement efforts and should be respected, engaged, and compensated accordingly.

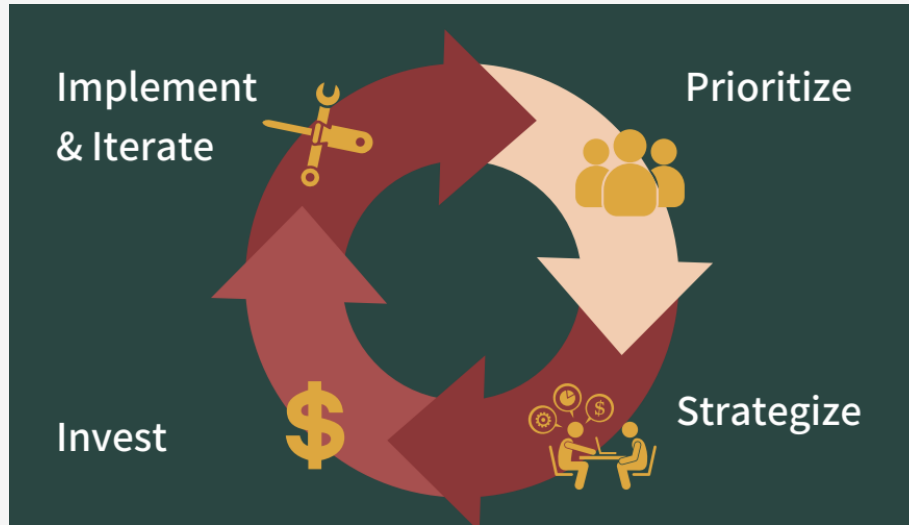
Council Structure – convened by Office of the Governor

10 Participating State Agencies	What They Do
Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)	Housing finance agency that administers over 35 federal and state programs. Housing Stabilization and Homelessness Prevention administers SHAP, CSBG, EHA, ESG and others. Current ICH co-chair. Provides staffing support to ICH.
Oregon Health Authority (OHA)	Includes most of the state’s healthcare programs including public health, behavioral health programs, and Oregon Health Plan. Current ICH co-chair.
Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)	Provides benefits and services to children, families, older adults, and people with disabilities. Administers SNAP, TANF, child protective services, foster care, developmental disability services. 75% of youth in foster care have experienced homelessness.
Oregon Department of Veteran Affairs (ODVA)	Provides benefits to veterans including healthcare, service-related disability, housing, and drop-in services for unhoused folks.
Oregon Department of Education (ODE)	Oversees the education of over 560,000 students in Oregon’s public K-12 education system. 22,000 students reported being homeless, in shelter, or doubled up in 2019-20.
Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)	Part of Oregon’s juvenile justice system. Provides community supervision and maintains five youth correctional facilities. Runs its own foster care program.
Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC)	The department has custody of adults sentenced to prison for more than 12 months. Provides oversight and funding for the community corrections activities of Oregon’s 36 counties. 5% of adults in custody become unhoused upon release.
Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)	Maintains highways, bridges, and other parts of the transportation system. Provides grants for communities providing public transportation.
Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS)	Implements policy and financial decisions made by the Governor and Legislature. Sets standards for and monitors how tax dollars are used.
Oregon Department of Justice (ODOJ)	Provides legal representation to state government. Runs child support offices and crime victim and survivor services.

Council Structure



Long-Term Vision



- 1 Prioritize:** Build a shared understanding of homelessness, shaped by people who have experienced homelessness, with a focus on communities disproportionately impacted by homelessness and housing instability.

- 2 Strategize:** Set strategic, measurable, ambitious, achievable, and equitable statewide goals for preventing and ending homelessness. State agencies work with community partners to define priorities and strategies to achieve goals, centering communities most marginalized by the current system: Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- 3 Invest:** Fund the work to prevent and end homelessness! State agencies commit resources to achieve stated goals. Align funding, policies, and programs across state agencies to address unmet needs and redress past harm. Develop accountability measures to make sure efforts are appropriately funded by each agency and can meet statewide goals for specific populations.
- 4 Implement and Iterate:** State agencies support the work at a community level. This includes identifying and changing state policies or procedures that impede implementation as well as providing technical assistance to local communities to use targeted approaches and engage stakeholders... which brings us back to **prioritize!**

More questions about the ICH?

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Discussion Questions

1. What state policies or processes do you hope will be improved through interagency collaboration?
2. What work is your community doing to bridge gaps between public systems? What's working? What's not? How could state agency partners support you?
3. What is helpful to you about how state agencies currently engage advocates and community members? What makes it helpful and valuable? What would make it more so?