OHCS Housing Stabilization Division
DRAFT '23–'25 Agency Recommended Budget (ARB)
May 2022 Webinar Q&A

Additional Questions? Please contact Leann Knapp with OHCS Government Relations at
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Materials

Q. Could someone share the link to your draft legislative agenda materials?

A. You can find OHCS' 2023-2035 Legislative Agenda Memo here:
https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/Documents/gov-relations/OHCS-DRAFT-2023-
Legislative-Agenda-Memo-05092022.pdf. Other documents will be added to this website:
https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/Pages/government-relations.aspx.

Grant Management

Q. What grant management solution are you looking into? A software?

A. Yes, OHCS is looking into a software solution to support multiple divisions and sections within
the agency in our grant management work.

Q. Would grant capacity/coordination be possible through the interagency council on homelessness?
To share some of the grant work between agencies but do so in a coordinated way so that resources
can be planned and outcomes measured holistically.

A. The Governor's office is currently working to stand up and design the initial phases of the
Interagency Council on Homelessness. We have brought on a consultant to help guide this work,
and it remains in the earlier stages of development. The types of cross-agency coordination
mentioned in this question are topics the Council may address; however, it is unclear which
issues or topics they will address first. We appreciate you raising resource coordination as a
priority. Even as the Council forms, OHCS will continue collaborating across agencies to create
better systems for Oregonians and organizational partners.

Shelter Investments

Q. Does OHCS also plan to work with urban Native communities in addition to the 9 Tribes?

A. While OHCS is excited to partner with the 9 Federally Tribes of Oregon, we are also aware
that Native communities live across the state, in both rural and urban communities. We have
been building relationships with our partners like NAYA, to continue to better serve Native
Oregonians in urban communities and look forward to growing that collaborative work. We also
anticipate our Policy Option Package (POP) related to Statewide Training and Technical
Assistance will be a key element in allowing OHCS to continue to build partnerships with more
organizations serving Native communities. We are very open to additional strategies and look
forward to continuing to expand partnerships.

Q. Will the Out of the Cold (OOTC) funding allow shelters renting their space to perform remodels? This is essential in our area.

A. Currently, all remodels and renovations for Homeless Services funding must be utilized on a property that is owned by a unit of local government or a non-profit. We are open to exploring this change in order to expand access to shelter options for Oregonians in need but need to complete an analysis on this change first. Thank you for letting us know about this important issue in your part of the State. Please reach out to jovany.lopez@hcs.oregon.gov for more information about this program.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Q. I recommend more for HMIS. The funding should cover the full cost of the full software package for PIT Count software as well.

A. Thank you for your feedback- OHCS will consider this as we examine funding needs for HMIS. Our current request would cover one HMIS Instance for 560 data entry users, and the costs associated with developing a Statewide HMIS Data Lake. Our current request does not include the Counting Us software most Continuums of Care use for their Point in Time Unsheltered and non-HMIS sheltered programs. This is a helpful suggestion and aligns with the work the PSU Homeless Research Action Collaborative will be performing to improve the statewide Point in Time process. Thank you for this recommendation.

Eviction Prevention Investments

Q. Where are the 8 Navigation Centers located?

A. For the 19-21 Biennium, the 8 Navigation Centers consist of 6 local governments and two additional sites:

- Eugene
- Salem
- Bend
- McMinnville
- Roseburg
- Medford
- Helping Hands
- Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC)

Long Term Youth Rental Assistance

Q. Will the proposed expansion of the Long Term Rent Assistance program continue the pilots that are planned to start this biennium?

A. Yes, the proposed statewide expansion of the Long-Term Youth Rent Assistance Program will include the current pilot program regions. We recognize that when we stand up a new program,

both partners and program participants need certainty that support will continue so they can grow, develop, and thrive. Across our Housing Stabilization funding requests, you will find that we are working to prioritize building on systems and partnerships we have been setting up. We plan on the Long-Term Youth Rental Assistance Program continuing in that direction, as well as adding in families as another target population.

Contracting and Procurement

Q. Re: the recent one-time allocations from the Legislature for navigation centers, also local government funding to address homelessness. These funds have all been put out through DAS, as OHCS has not had enough procurement/grant staff to get grants out quickly. Are you planning to request additional grant/procurement staff to support future grants?

A. Yes, OHCS is seeking additional funds to expand our procurement and contracting teams. We are also exploring ways to streamline internal processes to continue getting funds out to communities across the state. It is important to note that finding staff to come on board has been challenging for our procurement team, even with additional positions.

Q. Will the procurement LC also consider ways to make it easier for partners to work with OHCS and receive funds from them? Particularly for smaller organizations, there are real barriers to contracting with OHCS.

A. We are aware that contracting with state agencies like OHCS can present challenges, particularly for smaller organizations. At the same time, we want to continue bringing in new smaller, culturally specific agencies to serve Oregonians across the state. In order to right-size those two realities, OHCS must provide assistance and streamline processes so that the individuals and organizations doing work in the community can access our funding. We are hopeful that our Grants Management Solutions POP and Statewide Training and Technical POP, which we are aligning with other state agencies, will help us address some of these challenges. The Statute Clean Up LC, however, addresses technical fixes to ensure Legislative Counsel and Department of Justice attorneys have the same read of current statute. We are also very eager to hear your additional feedback about how we can reduce barriers via our post-webinar survey, linked here.