



Oregon

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Housing and Community Services



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Governor's Recommended Budget Supports Housing and Community Services Programs

Salem, Oregon (December 6, 2006) - The Governor's recommended budget for the 2007-09 biennium includes funding for several key Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) programs. Governor's recommended budget for OHCS is \$2.2 billion in total funds and will allow OHCS to continue all of its programs.

"We are optimistic that if legislatively adopted, the Governor's recommended budget will allow us to move forward with our goals to provide more affordable housing opportunities and needed services for homeless and low-income Oregonians." said OHCS Director, Victor Merced.

The recommended budget adds \$16 million to support the development of 150 units of housing that will provide services to Oregon's homeless population. This investment will work towards ensuring homeless individuals and families are supplied with a home and the appropriate services to help them gain self sufficiency.

In an effort to address the problem of hunger in Oregon, the budget adds \$1.5 million to increase the capacity of the Oregon Food Bank Network to deliver emergency food assistance to those in need, and break down barriers to ensure more food can be distributed statewide.

The recommended budget also includes support for preserving Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 projects. The budget invests \$8.1 million to ensure that low-income individuals pay no more than 30 percent of their income on housing through preserving the department's current loan portfolio of Section 8 projects.

The budget provides a \$2 million capital infusion to OHCS to ensure long-term financial viability and maintaining quality bond ratings. This will enable the department to continue to provide affordable rental housing and homeownership opportunities for low-income Oregonians.

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OHCS operates mainly with other fund revenues from the sale or repayment of bonds. The department also receives public utilities fees, investment income, grants, loan repayments, loan commitment fees, and revenue from other state agencies. Oregon's General Fund finances the state homeless, emergency housing, and food programs.

For more information regarding the OHCS portion of the Governor's recommended budget, contact Rick Crager, OHCS Deputy Director at 503.986.2076 or e-mail at rick.crager@hcs.state.or.us.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is the State's housing finance agency and community services program administrator. The Department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance and community service programs. The OHCS mission is to "Reach out for opportunities to create partnerships that improve Oregonians' lives and the quality of our communities." For more information, visit our website at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.