

Report on Poverty 2004

Committed to
building healthy
communities
by helping
our public
and private
partners provide
the strong
foundation every
community
needs.



Oregon
Housing and
Community
Services

Report on Poverty—2004
Oregon Housing and Community Services

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Report on Poverty—2004

Message from the Director

Oregon Housing and Community Services plays an important role in the fight to end poverty. It's a fight in which we have many allies—federal and state agencies, local governments, community action agencies, local private non-profits, and faith-based organizations.

Together, our responsibility is to create a route out of poverty for all Oregonians willing to pursue that goal.

Poverty's causes and effects are multi-faceted. Understanding how the policy changes, economic shifts, and social trends affect people living in poverty can challenge decision-makers. Making decisions with good data can assist them in setting policies that will truly make a difference in ending poverty.

A new tool

To the arsenal of programs, interventions, and outreach activities, we add this *Report on Poverty — 2004*, a new source of local, state, and national data about the problem of poverty. Here you will learn who among your neighbors is likely to live in poverty and how government, community agencies, and faith-based organizations are working to address this important problem.

An important note

Much of the data in this report is based on the 2000 Census. In the five years since the Census, a number of significant changes in Oregon's economy worsened the situation of people in poverty. These include:

- 2004 median income is slightly lower than it was in 1999
- per capita income growth has slowed significantly
- the cost of important household budget items, such as food, housing, and transportation has risen, sometimes dramatically

The Oregon profile on pages 77 to 81 describes these changes in more detail. Please keep in mind as you review this report that the situation today for people in poverty is worse than it was just five years ago.

Together, our responsibility is to create a route out of poverty for all Oregonians willing to pursue that goal.



Report on Poverty—2004

We welcome your feedback

This is our first biennial report examining the many aspects of poverty in Oregon and the nation. We look forward to hearing your ideas about how to refine the next edition of our Report on Poverty.

Yours,



Bob Repine

Director

Oregon Housing & Community Services



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