Greater Portland’s Need for Affordable Homes

Working families can’t afford to live here:
$1,208 — the average rent for a 2 bedroom apartment requires a salary of $48,000 or 2.5 full-time minimum-wage jobs.

Rents have increased 63%, but salaries only 39% in the last decade.

Grandparents are losing their homes when the rents go up, but Social Security doesn’t:
When average rent increases by $100 per month, homelessness increases by 15%.

There are 185,000 households eligible for affordable housing, but only 30,000 affordable homes in Greater Portland.

Waitlists for affordable homes are years long.

It’s already costing us:
Three moves for every student costs a year of lost education — last year 20,000 Oregon students experienced homelessness.

Health care costs increase significantly when patients don’t have a home — an emergency room visit costs an average of $2,400 more.

Emergency shelters cost $8,000 more than affordable housing per person, per year.

1. National Alliance to End Homelessness
2. National Low Income Housing Alliance
3. Journal of Public Affairs
4. Metro Equitable Housing Report
Solutions for more Affordable Homes

We can come together to make Greater Portland a place everyone can afford to call home.

A short list of revenue tools that may work for more affordable homes in your community:

- **Construction Excise Taxes** — Oregon encourages local cities and counties to use this impact fee on new development for affordable homes!
- **Tourism and Luxury Taxes** — Short term rentals, transient lodging taxes, rental car taxes can fund local and flexible rent assistance programs.
- **Local bonds and levies** — voter approved property tax mechanisms create deep and dedicated funding to build housing and fund services.
- **Convert General Funds to Housing Funds** — redirect flexible local, state and even federal funds to meet your community’s greatest need — affordable homes.

LET’S BE PROUD OF A COMMUNITY THAT IS SAFE, STABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL, BY INVESTING IN AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR GENERATIONS TO COME!

Learn more and join us: www.welcomehomecoalition.org @welcomehomeorg

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