



SAY NO TO \$27 MILLION FOR MASS CAMPS & CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

WHY THIS PLAN DOESN'T MAKE SENSE:

- **It doesn't address the root cause of homelessness: rising housing costs.** Data shows that the main driver of homelessness is housing affordability.
 - Other common explanations—drug use, mental illness, poverty, or local political context—fail to account for regional variation in rates of homelessness.
 - Studies show that median gross rent increases correlate with an increase in point-in-time homeless counts.
- **Criminalization has its own public costs.** Paying to house people in apartments is cheaper than jailing folks for camping.

ANNUAL COST TO HOUSE AN INMATE IN OREGON	ANNUAL COST OF PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
\$51,418	\$30,210

- This proposal requests funds to enforce camping bans. **We know this camping ban will result in the criminalization of homelessness - a strategy that has proven to be expensive and inhumane.** See examples from Austin, Texas:
 - “One of the great difficulties is homelessness is not a law enforcement issue” - a police veteran of 18 years in Austin Texas assigned to enforcing a camping ban response to the task.
 - Over 300 citations were given in 2 months in Austin, which lead to increased barriers to housing for those who were ticketed.
- **The proposed camps are too big to provide adequate resources.** Our city has seen success with self-governed camps that provide supportive services, but these camps are significantly smaller, supporting 20-50 people.
- **These camps are NOT cost-effective.** Other cities have attempted to enact similar plans. In Los Angeles, large encampments cost over \$2,600/month per tent site. \$2,600 could pay a household's rent in warmer, more permanent housing.
- **Mass tent encampments do not ensure increased protection from weather** and environmental hazards any more than the tents folks are already living in.
- **After spending \$27 million dollars of public funds, 1,000s of people will still be homeless.**
- Allocating a measly \$150,000 out of \$27 million to evaluate city-owned land for affordable housing development **is not a substantive commitment to creating 20,000 new affordable units in 10 years.**



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BETTER WAYS TO SPEND \$27 MILLION:

- **Invest in community-based organizations in the city:**
 - The Joint Office's contracted providers helped 4,560 people secure permanent housing in FY2022.
- **Invest more in the hotel/motel conversion model that has proven successful:**
 - Rockwood CDC implemented this model in our region & allowed the following successes:
 - \$7 million from Project Turnkey1.0 was allocated for property purchases & renovations starting May 2021. \$6.5 million went to site acquisition. The remaining \$500,000 were used for renovations.
 - Rockwood created 75 units & began housing people 20 days after purchase.
 - Allowed collaboration with dozens of other nonprofits to provide services.
 - Rockwood has since converted 12 units to PSH (permanent supportive housing).
- **Invest more in landlord incentive programs like Move In Multnomah:**
 - In just 4 months, one year of rent for 214 households was paid for to move people from homelessness to housing through the Move In Multnomah program.
 - The pilot program received \$4 million in funding and is spent out. \$4 million for 214 homes means an average annual cost of \$18,692 per household.
- **Invest more in long-term rent assistance programs, like Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance (RLRA):**
 - 260 people in Multnomah County received permanent housing with this program in a year.
- **Invest in tiny home villages, like Dignity Village, a community that has thrived for over 20 years in Portland:**
 - Experts in this model, including those living in them, report 20-30 people is the optimal size.
- **Support the creation of a new regional revenue stream dedicated to the construction and preservation of affordable housing that is affordable to people living on 0-30% AMI.**
 - Both the City of Portland & regional affordable housing bonds exceeded their planned goals.
 - So far, Metro Bond has created 3,244 units, reaching over 80% of the production goal, and still has 40% of funds available for new projects.
 - The Portland Bond created 1,859 units total, 43% more units than the production goal, and all funds are allocated.