



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO OUR REGION'S HOUSING CRISIS:

We must invest in solutions that address the root causes of homelessness - rising housing costs. Studies show that median gross rent increases correlate with an increase in point-in-time homeless counts. 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.

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:

- 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.

References:

1. Colburn, G., & Clayton Page Aldern. (2022). Homelessness is a housing problem how structural factors explain U.S. patterns. Oakland, California University Of California Press.
2. <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com/>
3. <https://www.oregon.gov/doc/Documents/agency-quick-facts.pdf> (calculation based on cost per day: AIC)
4. <https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/sites/g/files/znldhr1791/files/2020-06/CostSection.pdf> (calculation based on annual costs: rent assistance 0-1 bd + admin + PSH services)
5. <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/08/31/texas-austin-homeless-camping-ban/>
6. <https://data.austintexas.gov/Public-Safety/Proposition-B-Camping-Ban-Offenses/qc59-phn7/data>
7. <https://ca-times.brightspotcdn.com/67/41/517cceb543d99eeafb3505b66295/20-0841-rpt-cao-03-18-2021-1.pdf> page 15- (calculation: contract total divided by 70 sites, divided by 8 month period allotted)
8. <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/johs/viz/JOHSSystemPerformanceQuarterlyReport-FY2022Q4/Report>
9. <https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2022/10/multnomah-county-experiment-that-asked-landlords-to-rent-to-homeless-individuals-succeeded-but-quickly-ran-out-of-money.html>
10. https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/sites/g/files/znldhr1791/files/2022-04/PSU_HRAC_Village%20Research%20and%20How-To%20Guide_SPREADS_04_22.pdf
11. <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/affordable-homes-greater-portland/progress>
12. <https://portlandhousingbond.com/progress>