

# Welcome Home Coalition 2023 Annual Report

## At a glance

Founded in 2015, Welcome Home is a coalition of dozens of nonprofit affordable housing developers and service providers who came together to expand affordable housing options across the Portland Metro Region.

## Investing in Community Resources

Thanks to the support of voters, Welcome Home has championed two local affordable housing bonds. Thanks to these public investments our region will see 6,500 new affordable homes. These homes will provide new housing options for up to 19,000 people. As of 2023, over 2,000 new apartments and homes are completed and open to tenants.

## Building People Power

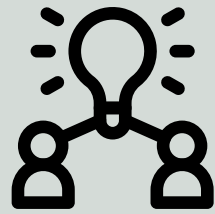
To ensure these and future public investments are informed by those most impacted by rising housing costs we launched our Voices for Housing Justice program to support new advocates with lived experiences of housing instability. In 2023, we connected with 49 new community members. Some of these folks have joined our Community Advisory Committee to inform Welcome Home's policy priorities.

In 2023 we also launched our Community Conversations for Housing Justice to facilitate conversations about solutions to address the root cause of housing instability and homelessness - together these two programs resulted in 90 hours of community education.

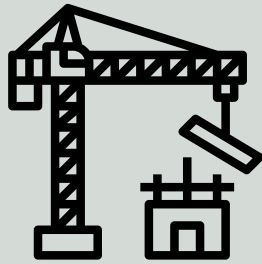
## Amplifying Community Voices

This year, with the support of coalition and community partners, we sent over 450 letters to elected officials in response to the priorities of our coalition partners and community members. This year our advocacy focused on policies that expanded rent assistance, increased staffing capacity and wages for frontline workers at CBOs and pushed for new revenue to continue to create more affordable housing.

### To Date



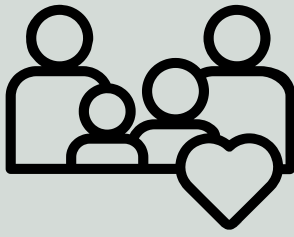
**76 Nonprofit Members**



**6,500 New Affordable Homes in the Housing Pipeline**



**2,000+ New Affordable Homes Now Open**



**2,786 Family Sized Homes Open or Under Construction**



**2,374 Very Affordable Homes Open or Under Construction**

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We kicked off the year by convening sessions with all five Multnomah County Commissioners to advocate for funding long-term solutions to homelessness with Supportive Housing Services dollars.

From March to June we organized direct service workers to advocate that community-based organizations' FY23/24 county and city contracts allow for **increased wages for those doing the essential work of meeting people where they are and working toward stable housing.**

Since the affordable housing bond funds are almost all spent, we advocated to the Metro Council to plan for a new revenue source to increase our region's affordable housing production. **Our coalition knows it is vital to build on the success we have seen in recent years thanks to the two voter-backed bonds.** We are grateful that Metro responded to our call to action and began laying the groundwork to ensure the continuation of affordable housing production in the region. In the next year, we will continue to make sure our coalition members have opportunities to further advocate for access to safe and affordable housing for all.

Systems change is a long road that requires holding on to a vision of hope and a better world. We believe that confronting our region's housing crisis with an equity lens is critical to preserving the dignity, humanity, and uniqueness of each and every one of our neighbors. This means creating a region where the voices of those with lived experiences of homelessness or housing instability are authentically elevated in policymaking. **We believe in our collective ability to do better. Doing better starts with listening to those most harmed by housing policies.**

We are honored and excited to convene our Community Advisory Committee and Steering Committee members in January 2024 to vision and plan together how to use our collective efforts to ensure we have a future of housing options that meet the real needs of people in our region.

**Let's House the People!**

-Molly, JJ ,and Emily

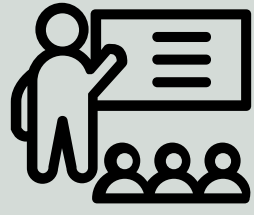
In 2023



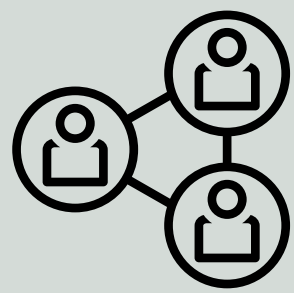
**20+ Public Comment Given & 450+ letters sent**



**33 Meetings with Elected Officials**



**90 Hours of Community Education**



**56 coalition member work sessions**



**49 People with Lived Experience complete advocacy training**