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Majority Leader Fahey Attends Groundbreaking for Affordable Housing Project, Supporting Homeownership

SALEM, Ore. - Yesterday, [House Majority Leader Julie Fahey](#) (D-West Eugene & Junction City) attended a groundbreaking event for the construction of 40 homes in West Eugene that will help working and low-income Oregonians achieve homeownership. The project is funded in part by state investments, including [Local Innovation and Fast Track](#) (LIFT) Homeownership funds, as well as [American Rescue Plan](#) (ARP) dollars allocated by the Majority Leader.

“Seeing these investments in action gives me hope,” the Majority Leader said. “What we know is that when people are able to become homeowners, they also have the opportunity to build and pass on wealth. Support for homeownership programs is an important way that the legislature can help more Oregonians achieve economic security and opportunity for generations to come.”

Local non-profit, [DevNW](#), is leading the project’s construction and using a Community Land Trust (CLT) model to help make homeownership more affordable. Homes are expected to be available for purchase by 2023. Interested parties should fill out the CLT application [here](#).

“DevNW works with aspiring homeowners every day, but working families face huge barriers to achieving that dream, with rising home prices over the last decade, and now skyrocketing mortgage interest rates,” said Emily Reiman, CEO of DevNW and Community LendingWorks. “We’re thrilled to bring 40 new homes to Eugene, including 31 permanently affordable CLT homes for families below 80% AMI, and 9 townhomes for middle income families.”

In 2021, following the passage of ARP, each Oregon legislator was able to allocate a set amount of funding to address specific needs in their district. For this project, DevNW received \$600,000 in ARP dollars allocated by the Majority Leader, in addition to \$2 million of the funds the legislature budgeted for the LIFT Homeownership Program.

Currently, Oregon needs to build [approximately 110,000 new homes](#) to meet the state’s demand. In past sessions, Oregon Democrats have taken bold action to address this crisis, including the passage of House Bill 2001 (2019) that made Oregon the first state in the nation to re-legalize “missing middle” housing

like duplexes, triplexes and townhomes in areas where they were previously banned, giving communities across the state more housing options.

This year, Oregon Democrats [championed a \\$400 million package](#) to address immediate needs around homelessness, increase the supply of affordable housing, keep people in affordable homes, and support homeownership.

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