



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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For more information, Contact:  
Hannah Kurowski:  
Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

### **House Passes Legislation to Fund Emergency Shelters Through Project Turnkey**

*HB 2004 B allows the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to administer \$9.7 million in grants for local community organizations to create new emergency shelters*

SALEM, OR – Today, the Oregon House voted to allocate general fund dollars for the creation and maintenance of emergency shelter units to help unhoused Oregonians. [House Bill 2004 B](#) appropriates \$9.7 million to the Department of Administrative Services for distribution to the Oregon Community Foundation for acquisition, renovation, and operation of shelters through Project Turnkey. The projects funded by this legislation would add a combined total of 132 units of shelter in Deschutes, Multnomah, Malheur and Yamhill counties.

“Last year’s wildfires created a need for emergency shelters across the state, and they also highlighted the preexisting need many Oregonians had for these services,” said [Rep. Pam Marsh](#) (D-Ashland), who carried the bill on the House floor. “As we had hoped, local governments embraced the Project Turnkey opportunity, and applications for qualified projects have exceeded available funding for non-wildfire affected areas of the state.”

In 2020, the Legislature allocated \$65 million General Fund for the purpose of acquiring motels and hotels for use as non-congregate shelter for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Oregon Community Foundation has administered the funding under contract with the Department of Administrative Services, conducting an application and selection process with guidance from an advisory committee consisting of stakeholders at the state and local level.

Project awards to date are as follows:

- The \$30 million that was designated for shelter opportunities in counties or tribal communities impacted by the 2020 wildfires has been fully allocated, resulting in the funding of seven projects for a total of 388 units in six counties.
- Another \$35 million designated for shelter opportunities in remaining areas of the state. \$31.2 million has been allocated to date.

Demand for the remaining \$3.8 million is oversubscribed, with four remaining potential projects in due diligence, in Deschutes, Multnomah, Malheur and Yamhill counties. Another \$9.7 million is needed to allow these remaining projects -- which could add a combined total of 132 units of shelter, to go forward.

“Housing is a human right and getting unhoused Oregonians into these emergency shelters is a big first step in getting them connected with services and into stable, long-term housing,” said [Rep. Wlmsvey Campos](#) (D-Aloha), who co-sponsored the bill. “Oregon’s housing crisis is a statewide issue, and one that disproportionately impacts our BIPOC communities. HB 2004 B is exactly the sort of investment we as a state need to make to begin addressing these inequities. I hope we can continue to bridge this gap and invest in services that allow Oregonians to transition to more stable housing.”

HB 2004 B passed 48-10, and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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