



PRESS RELEASE

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House Votes to Modernize Oregon’s Response to Homelessness with Focus on Equity

House Bill 2100 will modernize the statute to Oregon’s homelessness services system and prioritize community partnerships and solutions, establishing a 19-member Taskforce on Homelessness and Racial Disparities.

SALEM, OR—Today the Legislature passed [HB 2100](#), which will modernize the statute to Oregon’s homelessness services system. Brought to the Legislature at the request of Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), this will be the department’s first major statutory update for the state’s homelessness services system in over 30-years. The bill prioritizes community-driven solutions and partnerships, establishing a 19-member Taskforce on Homelessness and Racial Disparities that will collaborate with OHCS to usher in critical and culturally responses services.

“As a case worker, I am on the frontlines of Oregon’s housing and homelessness crises. Hear me when I say that homelessness is not a character flaw, but a policy failure that we can fix,” said [Rep. Wlnsvey Campos](#) (D-Aloha), who carried the bill. “This is an opportunity for us to turn the page and build a framework for culturally-responsive and equitable services, focusing on the outcomes for Oregonians experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and bringing more seats to the table to address this crisis. We are centering people and their humanity.”

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities are systemically denied the same rights and economic opportunities as white communities, impacting how BIPOC families are able to acquire wealth and build generational prosperity. In Oregon and across the U.S., BIPOC are [disproportionately impacted](#) by the housing instability and homelessness crisis and are more likely to be unsheltered. Today, [Oregon remains one of the top five states in the nation](#) for rates of unsheltered homelessness, including unsheltered rural, family, youth, and veteran homelessness.

The bill defines culturally responsive organizations, services and culturally specific providers as a needed part of the process for distributing homelessness services resources.

The taskforce will make recommendations for funding structures for homeless service resources, leveraging the expertise of people with lived experience, urban and rural homelessness service providers, local and community agencies and organizations.

“The current model of distributing these resources does not give BIPOC Oregonians experiencing homelessness the comprehensive support that they need, which reinforces the disparate rates of homelessness they experience,” said [Rep. Julie Fahey](#) (D- West Eugene & Junction City). “We want to break this cycle by ensuring that culturally-specific providers can best support the communities they serve.”

The legislation will codify the State Homelessness Assistance Program and Emergency Housing assistance program under the Emergency Housing Account, and will require the OHCS to administer federal programs with the advice of the housing stability council.

The bill passed 46-13 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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