



FROM THE OFFICES OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE OREGON SENATE
&
SPEAKER OF THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Legislature Supports Projects, Programs Across Oregon with Millions in Targeted Investments

*Oregon communities to see millions in investments to spur economic growth,
support vulnerable Oregonians, improve infrastructure safety*

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon Legislature rebalanced the state budget and sent millions of dollars to communities in Oregon for critical projects and programs in [Senate Bill 5701](#) and [House Bill 5201](#).

"This session, we set out clear priorities—housing, the addiction crisis, and investing in Oregon's future," said **House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis)**. "By investing strategically in Oregon communities across the state, we're working to ensure Oregon kids and families have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive."

"We came into this legislative session facing needs across the state, and we had the opportunity to make a difference in communities with targeted investments in crucial projects and programs," said **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)**. "I'm proud of the investments we made this year and I'm confident we will see their positive impacts for years to come."

Employment Related Day Care

Through a combination of new general fund revenue, federal funds and special purpose appropriations, the Oregon Legislature is committing **\$171 million** to the state's Employment Related Day Care program.

ERDC helps working families pay for child care, which has become increasingly unaffordable for many Oregon families. The program saw a spike in enrollment in recent years due to program changes that expanded eligibility and access.

"Child care is critical for families who are working or going to school while raising children. Indeed, access to child care is a wealth builder. The Legislature is committed to ensuring this program is available for families across the state," said **Rep. Lisa Reynolds (D-Washington County)**, chair of the House Early Childhood and Human Services Committee. "We must continue to do everything we can to support working families in Oregon."

Roseburg Veterans' Home

The Legislature established a **\$35 million** special purpose appropriation to support the construction of a veterans' home in Roseburg. Oregon does not have enough specialty beds for veterans who need support, and the facility in Roseburg will significantly improve the availability of those services.

If the project receives federal support, the veterans' home construction will be matched by the federal government at a 65% rate.

"Veterans give so much to our nation and our state; it is our responsibility to care for them at home. This project will be transformative for veterans in southern Oregon," said **Sen. Elizabeth Steiner (D-Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. "We have been trying for years to get federal money for this project, and I am hopeful this investment will draw down the necessary federal funds to complete this vital project."

Infrastructure

Infrastructure across Oregon is in need of seismic retrofitting to ensure it remains standing and operational in the event of a large earthquake. Bridges are especially important so the flow of goods can continue during an emergency.

With this in mind, the Legislature committed **\$6 million** to the Port of Cascade Locks to fund engineering analysis, site investigations, project cost estimating, external outreach, and impact analysis for a seismic retrofit of the Bridge of the Gods.

"It's exciting that we're investing in restoring bridges that are failing and unsafe—including unique ones like this walking and biking-only bridge," said **Rep. Susan McLain (D-Forest Grove)**, co-chair of Joint Transportation Committee. "Our shared effort with our partners in Washington state to modernize our transportation system will benefit communities across our state, region, and our country."

The Legislature is also dedicating infrastructure maintenance funding to the Oregon Department of Transportation; **\$19 million** for winter maintenance including snowplowing and **\$20 million** to support graffiti and trash clean-up along ODOT property.

Affordable Housing

This session, the Legislature invested **\$376 million** in addressing homelessness and affordable housing through [Emergency Housing Stabilization and Production Package](#).

On top of that legislators committed **\$3 million** via lottery bonds to the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties to develop a social service and resource center that includes affordable housing at the former Statesman Journal location in downtown Salem.

"This resource center will provide not only much needed housing for those who desperately need it, but will connect people to essential behavioral health services," said **Sen. Deb Patterson (D-Salem)**. "I'm excited to see all the good this center is going to do for Salem."

Summer Meals for Kids

For families experiencing food insecurity, the summer months can be extremely challenging as their children are no longer able to receive meals through school. In an effort to reduce food insecurity among those children, the Legislature is allocating **\$12.2 million** in general fund through several state agencies for the implementation of the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program.

The program will provide low-income families a \$120 grocery benefit for each eligible child. An estimated 294,000 students in Oregon could benefit from the program.

"Investing in supports like school meals programs are a critical part of supporting our communities," said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez (D-Portland)**, co-chair of Joint Ways and Means Committee. "We have more work to do to get where we need to be, but this is an important step forward in our work to set our kids up to be the future leaders of our state."

Culture and Entertainment Investments

During the COVID-19 pandemic, cultural and entertainment organizations faced significant financial impacts and are still recovering. These institutions create a sense of community in cities across the state as well as act as economic engines. Legislative leaders in both chambers and parties directed targeted investments totaling more than **\$50 million** to theaters, museums, culturally specific organizations, parks, and sports facilities to protect these community hubs.

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