

Breaking New Ground--Oregon's Statewide Housing Plan

Oregon Housing and Community Services

Communications: Promotional Materials and Newsletters

HFA Staff Contact

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Communications, Promotional Materials

NCSHA Award Nomination form:

HFA Name: Oregon Housing and Community Services

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Entry Title: Breaking New Ground – Oregon’s Statewide Housing Plan

Category and SubCategory: Communications, Promotional Materials

Entry Description:

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) released their 5-year Statewide Housing Plan, titled “Breaking New Ground,” on February 11, 2019. The plan was developed over a 2-year period, using quantitative and qualitative data, and feedback from providers and consumers all over the state. We have set forth a bold and aspirational policy agenda which focuses directly on 6 major policy priorities: Equity and Racial Justice, Homelessness, Permanent Supportive Housing, Affordable Rental Housing, Homeownership, and Rural Communities. The Plan has helped position OHCS as the leader our state needs us to be as we seek to advance the priorities of the Plan. In addition, the Plan has influenced both state and federal legislation including garnering high level elected official support for historical affordable housing and services budgetary requests.

Plan Development:

The development process for Oregon’s Statewide Housing Plan included both internal and external collaboration. An internal project team composed of executive leadership and key policy and program staff was formed to lead and contribute to the research and policy development that are the foundation of the Plan, with support from consultants on research, outreach, and plan development. Throughout the development of the plan, the OHCS Housing Stability Council played a key role providing guidance on the direction for the plan as well as emphasizing the need to develop programs that serve our entire state and achieve equitable outcomes.

Community Outreach to inform the plan:

Over the past 2 years, OHCS engaged Oregonians in a discussion about the Statewide Housing Plan and local communities’ housing and service needs. We held 11 partner conferences, hosted 22 community forums and engaged the leaders from each of Oregon’s federally recognized tribes. In total, 575 Oregonians met with OHCS staff and many more participated in the process electronically with our webinars, discussion guide and online surveys to share information and help OHCS learn from partners’ and providers’ experiences in the field. In addition to talking to housing professionals, OHCS hosted seven focus groups that connected directly with low-income Oregonians, agricultural workers, and providers that serve the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other gender diverse and sexual minorities) community. The department also worked with the Community Alliance of Tenants to gather input from tenants around the state.

Statewide Housing Plan role in state and federal advocacy

In August of 2018, Oregon’s Governor Kate Brown released her 2019 Housing Policy Agenda which was heavily informed by the then draft version of the Statewide Housing Plan. The Housing Policy Agenda became the foundation for Governor Brown’s OHCS Agency Request Budget in the 2019 Legislative Session which is currently seeking over \$400 million in resources to address the priorities in the Statewide Housing Plan. In addition, the Statewide Housing Plan has heavily influenced Oregon’s federal delegation as they seek to develop budgetary requests and request policy additions or changes. During the NCSHA Legislative Conference in March, OHCS leadership presented the federal delegation with the Plan and have since received multiple requests for follow up engagement.

Media and Links:

Oregon Statewide Housing Plan full version: <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/shp/SWHP-Full-Plan.pdf>

Oregon Statewide Housing Plan Executive Summary: <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/shp/SWHP-Executive-Summary.pdf>

2019 Strategies for the Policy Priorities: <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/DO/shp/2019-Six-Priority-Strategies.pdf>

February 28, 2019: My Oregon News OP-ED by Director Salazar released by Governor Brown: <https://www.myoregon.gov/2019/02/28/breaking-new-ground-how-the-statewide-housing-plan-will-lead-oregon/#prettyPhoto>