

Submitter: Carla Penn-Hopson
On Behalf Of: Self Enhancement Inc
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB949

Purpose

To secure funding for land acquisition and development of affordable and mixed-use housing to promote family stabilization and upward mobility for North and Northeast Portland residents. This project will increase the number of affordable mixed-use housing units that integrate residential units with community-focused services and commercial spaces and support the Governor's efforts to increase housing production by 36,000 units a year.

• Problem

Oregon is experiencing a housing emergency that disproportionately impacts underserved communities and vulnerable community members. North and Northeast Portland residents are finding it hard to secure affordable housing. The proposed project aims to provide affordable housing options for 644 residents, addressing the growing need for affordable housing in the target neighborhoods of North and Northeast Portland, which have been significantly affected by rising housing costs. By supporting this initiative, the state of Oregon will take a significant step towards addressing the affordable housing crisis, fostering community well-being, and getting us closer to the Governor's stated housing production goals of 36,000 new units a year.

• How does the measure change or solve the current situation? It adds 644 units towards the Governor's goal of increasing housing production. More and more people in North and Northeast Portland are experiencing a housing emergency. This measure will alleviate the emergency housing needs for people who are at risk of homelessness or displacement. This project aims to break ground within 18 months of securing funding.

SEI has successfully implemented this model, but it has not been scaled to address the housing crisis impacting low-income communities in North and Northeast Portland. SEI co-developed three buildings housing 252 individuals: Alberta Alive: the Ronnie Herndon Building for families, the Paul and Geneva Knauls Building for Veterans, and the Dr. Darrell Millner Building.