



Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women

Funding for Domestic and Sexual Violence Housing Navigator Proposal Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Budget *HB 3327 and SB 271-1 (policy bills) and HB 5015 (DOJ Budget)*

Support \$5 million in DOJ CVSSD Budget to provide resources for community-based domestic violence and sexual assault (DVSA) programs to assist survivors with housing needs.

- **Navigation and Homelessness Prevention Services to Survivors:** Funding to continue and add staffing capacity to grantees within the network of community-based and culturally specific DVSA programs to assist survivors with housing needs. Services would be DVSA informed, trauma-informed case management and assistance with homelessness prevention and housing stability as a part of safety planning. Individualized assistance with landlord negotiation, establishing safety in current housing, moving for safety reasons, housing search, application process, tenant education, and other case management re: housing safety and stability issues. Community education, and outreach will facilitate liaisons with housing providers.
- **Emergency Housing, Homelessness Prevention, and Rapid Re-Housing Funds:** Prevention services to enable survivors at imminent risk of homelessness or unstably or unsafely housed to have a safe place to sleep, regain stability in their current housing, or find other safe housing. Services provided in conjunction with safety- planning and DVSA resources, and to include: Motel or hotel vouchers, rent payments and arrearages, utility payments and arrearages, moving costs, landlord required deposits and application fees, relocation assistance.

Rationale: In 2019, Oregon's Domestic and Sexual Violence shelters turned away more than 8,000 requests for emergency shelter due to lack of capacity – forcing advocates and survivors to brainstorm safe spaces to sleep in the streets, at airports, on the max train, etc.

- Domestic violence rates have escalated sharply during the COVID pandemic, and the importance of safe and stable housing has increased exponentially.
- The 2019 Oregon Alliance to End Violence Against Women statewide survey identified housing stability as the greatest issue facing survivors in rural and urban communities across the state.
- The 2019 National Network to End Domestic Violence Census identified housing as the greatest unmet need for survivors in Oregon.
- The time when a survivor attempts to leave a violent relationship is extremely dangerous. Survivors need DVSA and trauma-informed support and assistance to address shelter and housing needs within the context of a safety plan.
- Many survivors do not access other state resources. Locating this assistance at the DVSA shelter network assures accessibility for survivors.