



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: March 2, 2021
TO: House Committee on Housing
RE: HB 2100, relating to housing

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

Lane County writes in opposition to the proposed amendment from Oregon Housing and Community services to HB 2100. Concerns with both the process for bringing this proposal forward and the proposed changes it includes have made impossible to get on board with the concept. The bill changes the paradigm from a structure of collaborative regional planning and coordinated approaches to a top down allocation of a portion of the resources already coming to support homeless efforts in Oregon's communities.

Specifically, we are concerned with the proposal is the change to the allocation model from formulaic to competitive for 20% of SHAP/EHA funds – this will lead to uncertainty in our ability to provide current services, while also implicating our ability to move forward with systems-level planning. At a time when our systems are in need of coordination and cooperation more than ever, a competitive process run by the state will at best create added layers of uncertainty and bureaucracy. At worst, it will disinvest and increase fragmentation in our local homeless services system.

Lane County is aligned with OHCS's stated goal of ensuring there are services and providers to serve communities of color and that the development and implementation of those services are driven by those communities. We are committed to moving that work forward regardless of the outcome of this legislation. However, in the proposed amendment the 20% (plus future additions above current CSL) carve out is not guaranteed to support these communities – there are multiple allowed uses under the proposed statute, of which this is only one.

Additionally, the process of developing this bill has lacked the amount of transparency and appropriate input necessary for proposing a change of this magnitude. In a sector where partners across the housing continuum are striving to work effectively together, this proposal has been pushed forward by OHCS with only minimal changes from feedback gathered.

As the Community Action Agency for our region, we continue to work closely with community partners to deliver over \$8 million in rent assistance, to expand and stand up new emergency shelter programs to serve the unhoused in non-congregate shelter during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Through the State of Oregon's support we recently secured a 50-unit motel to house wildfire victims and leased to others for unhoused community members with chronic health conditions. We continue to make decisions locally, collaboratively with our municipal governmental and non-profit partners, and private sector partners to both leverage funding and maximize our impact in achieving our strategic goals around housing and homelessness.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER