

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 25-5558 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING UP TO \$500,000 TO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR METRO RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Date: Dec. 15, 2025

Presenter: Val Galstad, *Interim Housing Deputy Director*

Department: Housing

Length: 15 minutes

Meeting Date: Dec. 18, 2025

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ISSUE STATEMENT

This presentation will provide Metro Council with information on Resolution 25-5558 which will authorize Metro's Chief Operating Officer to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Local Implementation Partners to provide up to \$500,000 total of Metro's SHS administrative fund balance for the purpose of addressing imminent housing instability resulting from increased federal immigration enforcement activity.

In a time of continuing crisis, recent federal policy and funding actions have been associated with increased instability and disruption, including reported physical, emotional, and economic impacts. Responsive action is therefore critically important.

These impacts include but are not limited to the inability to pay for housing and other basic household expenses due to the detention of income-earning household members; declines in workforce participation resulting in reduced household income; increased school absences; loss of transportation; and significant challenges in accessing basic needs, healthcare, and other essential services among Metro area residents.

ACTION REQUESTED

Metro Council consider approving Resolution No. 25-5558.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

- Provides up to \$500,000 to SHS Local Implementation Partners to address housing instability or challenges meeting basic needs due to federal immigration enforcement actions.

- Supports impacted households regardless of immigration status or prior connection to SHS-funded service providers, removing barriers to accessing services.
- Addresses the most pressing needs identified by organizations and individuals working directly with impacted households.
- Agreements are one-time, with no expectation of renewal or replacement funding.

POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER

Staff recommend passing the resolution as submitted. Metro Council may further direct staff to require additional specific features in a subsequent IGA with SHS Local Implementation Partners.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Metro Council seeks to ensure that SHS funding is used strategically to address the most pressing needs across the region. Recent substantial changes in federal policy, funding, and other federal actions are expected to continue over multiple years, producing impacts that may exceed the capacity of individual cities, counties, or regional governments to address independently. In light of these conditions, the Council is considering a regional framework to mitigate the effects of federal policy and funding changes, emphasizing strategic, long-term, and systemic actions in decision-making.

Metro is unlikely to have an ongoing balance of carryover funds in the future, and income-based tax collection is inherently volatile. These financial realities must be considered in allocation decisions to ensure strategic and sustainable deployment of SHS resources.

LEGAL ANTECEDENTS

In 2020, Metro Council referred Measure 26-210 to Metro area voters, proposing a personal and business income tax to fund Supportive Housing Services (SHS) across the region. On May 19, 2020, voters approved Measure 26-210, establishing a one percent personal income tax on high-income earners and a one percent business profits tax on businesses grossing \$5 million annually. Measure 26-210 authorizes Metro to provide funding to local governments for supportive housing services, and has been codified through Ordinance Nos. 20-1452, 20-1453, and 20-1454. Metro Code 11.01.130 further authorizes Metro to distribute SHS administrative funds to a Local Implementation Partner to address needs identified by Metro Council.

BACKGROUND

At Metro Council meeting on Nov. 13, 2025, Metro Council directed staff to explore options for allocating up to \$500,000 to support people at risk of homelessness due to increased immigration enforcement activity. Following that meeting, Metro staff conducted research

and engaged advocates, community-based organizations, school-based social workers, and mutual aid groups to identify the experiences and housing stability related needs of households across the Metro region most impacted by these conditions. Staff also sought to understand barriers to access among impacted households to understand the potential operationalization of these funds.

Impacts from increased immigration enforcement activity identified in staff research and community outreach include:

- Inability to pay for housing and other essential household expenses due to detention of income-earning household members
- Declines in workforce participation resulting in reduced household income
- Increased school absences
- Loss of transportation
- Challenges accessing healthcare and other essential services

These impacts have been observed in households with varying immigration statuses across the region, including individuals legally present in the U.S. or lawfully employed, increasing uncertainty regarding enforcement scope and outcomes. As a result, local jurisdictions such as the Cities of Portland and Hillsboro, and Multnomah and Washington Counties, have declared states of emergency specific to federal immigration enforcement impacts. Washington County and the City of Hillsboro have each allocated up to \$200,000 to support affected individuals and families, with other local jurisdictions currently considering similar allocations.

In collaboration with agency leadership, staff developed the funding proposal as outlined in Resolution 25-5558 which allocates up to \$500,000 in SHS administrative funding to Local Implementation Partners. This approach encourages funding to flow quickly and efficiently, while allowing each Local Implementation Partner to invest in local solutions specific to their unique circumstances.

Unique circumstances have led to Metro having these available resources that are not otherwise critical for immediate administrative needs. It is unlikely that Metro will have these resources available for flexible programming in the future given current revenue and budget forecasts. Therefore, SHS Local Implementation Partners that receive one-time funds from Metro administrative allocation should understand that those investments are one-time and program them as such.