

CITY OF PORTLAND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE

Date: October 14, 2025

Department: Council/Housing

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

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Legislative Advisor

Presenter(s), (if applicable): Mayor Keith Wilson, City of Portland

Length: 90 minutes

ISSUE STATEMENT

In administering its Supportive Housing Services (SHS) fund, Metro works to ensure that funding from SHS taxes, as approved by voters in 2020, provide tangible benefits to residents who experience homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless.

As the regional government that collects and disburses SHS taxes to Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, Metro also endeavors to facilitate strong partnerships across jurisdictions to improve service outcomes and experiences and to maximize benefit for taxpayer dollars.

In furtherance of these goals, Metro Council provided direction to its SHS division to capitalize on opportunities to leverage tangible benefits when feasible. This year, Metro and its jurisdictional partners worked together to infuse much-needed service programs with one-time funds from Metro's unallocated administrative funds afforded through the SHS fund.

BACKGROUND

In May 2020, voters in greater Portland approved Measure 26-210 to fund services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The measure created personal and business income taxes that fund Supportive Housing Services (SHS) across the region. Pursuant to the measure, Metro retains 5 percent of SHS tax collections to administer a regional program.

In January and February 2025, City of Portland Mayor Keith Wilson and staff from the Joint Office of Homeless Services presented to Metro Council an overview of the significant needs for additional services, alongside a plan for significantly reducing unsheltered homelessness.

In April 2025, Metro Council and Multnomah County worked in partnership to pass legislation to partially fund the City of Portland's overnight shelter program. Metro Council amended Metro Code to enable disbursement of funds from the regional program to its tri-county Local Implementation Partners to support specific goals in service delivery. Metro disbursed \$15 million in one-time funds from Metro's unallocated SHS administrative

funds to Multnomah County, who then allocated those funds to the City of Portland to support Mayor Wilson's goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness.

Earlier this month, Metro Council continued its support for one-time investments in County programs that maintain program stability and contribute to regional progress. Council approved \$10 million in one-time funds from unallocated SHS administrative funds to support eviction prevention and capital transitional projects in Washington County, helping to backfill unanticipated state funding gaps that could slow regional progress.

ACTION REQUESTED

This presentation is designed to update Metro Council on funds previously disbursed from the regional program to support the City of Portland's investments in reducing unsheltered homelessness. No formal action is requested at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

None