

February 24, 2020

Dear Metro Council,

As you move the Homeless Services measure to the ballot, please make sure it's worded to clearly allow funds to be spent on facilitating and subsidizing home-sharing arrangements and group living. These are highly cost-effective ways to provide supportive housing for people who are homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless.

Calculations based on American Community Survey data (below) indicate that there are almost 450,000 spare bedrooms in occupied homes in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, and over 100,000 more in vacant homes. Over 5,200 of these empty bedrooms are in homes with just one or two residents and twelve or more bedrooms apiece! Taking advantage of a small portion of this vast underused housing supply for use as transitional housing would not require expensive new construction. In general, the homes wouldn't even have to be significantly remodeled. Under Oregon law, a single-family home doesn't have to be modified to meet building codes if used as a group home for up to ten people. So using some single-family homes for group living and home sharing would offer an easy, inexpensive way for nonprofits partnering with Metro to house those in need.

Promoting group living would enable adaptive re-use of large, underoccupied single-family homes, enriching exclusionary single-family neighborhoods with socioeconomic diversity while fully preserving the neighborhoods' historic architectural character. It would give many homeless people a chance to live safely indoors in high-opportunity areas close to jobs, public transit, and good schools. And group living could provide peer support and a greater sense of community for residents who would otherwise suffer social isolation.

The Metro Homeless Services measure should be used in part to facilitate group living and home sharing. Metro could partner with nonprofits such as Oregon Harbor of Hope and Metro HomeShare to help interested homeowners connect with potential roommates who need housing.

The Homeless Services measure should also directly subsidize group living and home sharing. Affordable housing funds could be used as rent subsidies for rooms in single-family houses, as financial support for nonprofits running group homes, or as a means to buy large single-family homes directly for use as public housing.

Sincerely,
Leon Porter

Technical Appendix: How Many Spare Bedrooms Are There in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties?

The table below shows the numbers of homes with various numbers of bedrooms and various numbers of residents in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, based on 2014-2018 American Community Survey data. We are interested in finding the numbers of spare bedrooms, so the table only shows numbers of homes with more bedrooms than residents.

I extracted this data using the iPUMS site (<https://sda.usa.ipums.org>). Since the data source doesn't provide exact numbers of bedrooms in houses with 5 or more bedrooms, I treat each house as having

the lowest number of bedrooms in the range shown. For example, I treat each 7-11 bedroom house as having exactly 7 bedrooms. To calculate the numbers of SPARE bedrooms, I assume that each resident gets one bedroom, so the number of spare bedrooms in a home is the number of bedrooms minus the number of residents. All numbers below are approximations based on partial surveys; allow for margins of error.

| Homes with | 2 bedrooms | 3 bedrooms | 4 bedrooms | 5-6 bedrooms | 7-11 bedrooms | 12+ bedrooms |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 resident | 56,367 | 47,281 | 10,954 | 1,898 | 634 | 152 |
| 2 residents | X | 96,055 | 37,719 | 7,609 | 609 | 354 |
| 3 residents | X | X | 23,497 | 5,059 | 684 | 48 |
| 4 residents | X | X | X | 6,643 | 660 | 178 |
| 5 residents | X | X | X | X | 418 | 231 |
| 6 residents | X | X | X | X | 640 | 77 |
| 7 residents | X | X | X | X | X | 0 |
| 8 residents | X | X | X | X | X | 130 |
| Number of SPARE bedrooms | 56,367 | 190,617 | 131,797 | 47,180 | 13,041 | 9,667 |

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPARE BEDROOMS IN OCCUPIED HOMES IN CLACKAMAS, MULTNOMAH, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES: 448,669

How many empty bedrooms are there in these three counties' vacant homes? Let's calculate.

The 2017 data (at <https://factfinder.census.gov>) shows 724,865 housing units total, including vacant units, or 5.5% of the total.

The housing units included 87,456 one-bedroom homes, 194,424 two-bedroom homes, 262,931 three-bedroom homes, 120,016 four-bedroom homes, and 32,971 homes with five or more bedrooms.

Our data doesn't show separate vacancy rates for homes with specific numbers of bedrooms. But using the overall 5.5% vacancy rate for the three counties, we can estimate 4,810 vacant one-bedroom homes, 10,693 vacant two-bedroom homes, 14,461 vacant three-bedroom homes, 6,600 vacant four-bedroom homes, and 1,813 vacant homes with five or more bedrooms.

That gives us at least 105,044 empty bedrooms in vacant homes--not counting studio apartments, and not counting bedrooms beyond the fifth in homes with six or more bedrooms!

Adding this to the total number of spare bedrooms in occupied homes gives us:

TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPTY BEDROOMS IN VACANT AND OCCUPIED HOMES IN CLACKAMAS, MULTNOMAH, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES: 553,713



*Housing Oregon
Board members:*

*Sheila Stiley,
Board chair – NW
Coastal Housing*

*Diane Linn,
Vice-chair - Proud
Ground*

*Travis Phillips,
Secretary –
Catholic Charities
of Oregon*

*Trell Anderson,
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*Rachael Duke -
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League of Portland*

*Sean Hubert-
Central City
Concern*

*Richard Morrow –
Columbia Cascade
Housing Corp.*

*Arielle Reid –
NeighborWorks
Umpqua*

*Lisa Rogers –
CASA of Oregon*

February 20, 2020

Metro Council President Lynn Peterson
And Councilors
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Metro Council President Peterson and Council members,

Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. Please don't pull back at the last minute.

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelter. Now is not the time for incremental change, now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it.

Review and approve a \$250 million measure to the May ballot.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoop
Director, Housing Oregon

From: [Mary Brooks](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]for May ballot
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 7:54:39 AM

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Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Councilmembers,

Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. **Please don't pull back at the last minute.**

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelter. Now is not the time for incremental change, now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it.

Review and approve a \$250million measure to the May ballot.

Thank you,
Mary Brooks

--

Mary Brooks

From: [Mike Savara](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Bond measure - homelessness
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:53:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Councilmembers,

Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. Please don't pull back at the last minute.

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelter. Now is not the time for incremental change, now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it. We know that this issue is going to take investment from our community to move the needle, and this is the best opportunity to drastically change the landscape before us.

Review and approve a \$250million measure to the May ballot.

Thank you,
Mike Savara, LCSW, CADC III

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From: [Nathan Teske](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Metro homeless services levy
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 5:35:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Council members,
Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. **Please don't pull back at the last minute.**
Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelters. At Bienestar, we increasingly see the need to serve people experiencing homelessness in communities such as Forest Grove, Cornelius, Hillsboro and Aloha. We believe now is the time to take advantage of the momentum to do something, and not make incremental change.
I urge you to review and approve a \$250 million homelessness services measure to the May ballot.
Thank you,

Nathan Teske
Executive Director



Making housing a home since 1981.

[Sign up for the Bienestar mailing list!](#)

From: [Elizabeth Hearn](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Request
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:32:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Council members,

Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. **Please don't pull back at the last minute.**

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelters. Now is not the time for incremental change. Now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it.

Review and approve a \$250 million homelessness services measure to the May ballot.

Thank you!

Liz Hearn

Resident Services Manager, MSW

Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Inc. (CPAH)

503-293-4038 [option 2 ext. 305](#) phone / 503 975 2679 cell / 503-293-4039 fax

www.cpahinc.org

Pronouns: She/her



From: [Nick Sauvie](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Homeless Services Ballot Measure
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:23:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Council members,
Metro region voters approved more than \$900 million to build new affordable housing in 2016 and 2018. The proposed \$250 million measure provides social services and rent subsidies necessary to make the most of that investment and get people off of the street and into housing. My organization – ROSE Community Development – has two new developments in the works that rely on this new funding source.

Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. **Please don't pull back at the last minute.**

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelters. Now is not the time for incremental change. Now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it.

Review and approve a \$250 million homeless services measure to the May ballot.

Nick Sauvie
Executive Director
5215 SE Duke Street
Portland, OR 97206
503-788-8052 x16



Pronouns: He, Him, His

From: [Laura Golino de Lovato](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Here Together and Metro ballot measure
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:13:36 PM

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Dear Metro Council President Peterson and Councilors Chase, Craddick, Dirksen, Gonzalez, Lewis and Stacey -

I know you have just stepped into an important work session that will include, as the second agenda item, a discussion of the homeless and housing services measures proposed by the Here Together Coalition.

Moments ago, I read with concern an article in Willamette Week that Metro Council will consider a measure that will only raise \$175M in revenue. I urge you as a Council to approve the amount that has been proposed and discussed in these past weeks: \$250M - \$300M annually. This is what the attendees at the Metro Council public hearing heard last week. It's also a goal that is attainable.

Please do NOT step back from the \$250M - \$300M solution to this regional crisis. Those living on the streets, in cars, living with friends, or in inadequate housing or at risk of eviction are depending on the Council's leadership to take the bold step to refer a measure that won't fall short in meeting the need.

Thank you so much for your leadership.

Laura Golino de Lovato | Executive Director | Northwest Pilot Project
1430 SW Broadway, Suite 200 | Portland, OR 97201 |

direct 503.478.6868 | fax [503.274.8559](tel:503.274.8559) | nwpilotproject.org

HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

From: [Mercedes Elizalde](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Support for \$250 million measure for supportive services
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:09:16 PM

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Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Councilmembers,
Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. **Please don't pull back at the last minute.**

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelter. Now is not the time for incremental change, now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it.

Review and approve a \$250million measure to the May ballot.

This tax should be progressive and targeted at high income earners \$150K for single filers and \$300K for joint filers, non-marginal.

We greatly appreciate Metro taking the time to visit programs at Central City Concern. We know \$250 million feels like an incredible leap for the Metro Council to take on, but it has been shown to have strong community support. Central City Concern alone is an as organization with a \$100 million operating budget serving approximately 13,000 people a year. So many of the programs we operate are still smaller scale than they should and could be, and many more organizations throughout the tri-county region have more demand than they can satisfy. Please continue to be bold and lead with what we should do, far too often we serve a fraction of who needs support. We ration help in our communities, and as long as we continue to ration help we will simply not see the change we need to see.

Thank you,

Mercedes Elizalde (she, her)
[Central City Concern](#)
Public Policy Director
Mercedes.Elizalde@ccconcern.org
(503) 935-7726

www.centralcityconcern.org

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From: [Hillary H](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Homeless Services measure
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:56:34 AM

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Dear Metro Council President Peterson and all Metro Council members,
Thank you for your willingness to take bold action for people experiencing homelessness in our region. **Please don't pull back at the last minute.**

Every night in our region thousands of people are sleeping out on the streets and thousands are sleeping in shelters. Now is not the time for incremental change. Now is the time to take our programs to the scale needed to address the problem. Everyday people move into housing from homelessness and everyday people begin experiencing homelessness for the first time. This revolving door will not stop unless all our leadership have the political will to stop it. Please push for policy you know is right and leads with justice.

Review and approve a \$250 million homelessness services measure to the May ballot.

Thank you,

Hillary Houck
Chief Program Officer

She / Her / Hers

Human Solutions
124 NE 181st Ave.
Portland, OR 97230
Phone: 503.907.2829
Fax: 503.405.7934
hhouck@humansolutions.org
www.humansolutions.org

Human Solutions: Building Pathways Out of Poverty

YOU'RE INVITED! Join us at [McMenamin's Edgefield](#) on Monday, March 9th for "Friends & Family Night" at their Power Station Pub. Human Solutions takes home 50% of the night's proceeds to fuel our work! No need to RSVP, just drop in for a tasty meal!

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NORTHEAST COALITION
OF NEIGHBORHOODS

February 19, 2020

RE: Testimony on the Proposed Resolution to Fund Homeless Services

Dear Metro Councilors,

I am writing on behalf of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods board of directors regarding the proposed resolution on funding homeless services that you are considering. Specifically, ***we are asking you to include a provision that will sunset the proposed 1% tax in five years.***

As a coalition that represents more than 60,000 neighbors in neighborhoods that have been historically underserved and continue to be heavily impacted by gentrification, addressing housing affordability and homelessness is a top priority for NECN. We count many homeless residents among our neighbors and have worked with neighborhoods and stakeholders to welcome the Walnut Park shelter at Killingsworth and MLK—and continue to work in support of this needed resource. This is just one example of our commitment our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

We strongly support adequately funding efforts to prevent and address homelessness, ***however, we do not believe a tax in perpetuity is appropriate way to fund an “emergency.” We oppose a resolution without a sunset provision regardless of who the tax targets.***

An emergency is defined as a serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. While the *urgent needs* of our neighbors experiencing homelessness are serious and necessitate action, homelessness and housing affordability are systemic issues. To address systemic issues NECN supports 1. Structural changes through policy that improve housing availability and affordability 2. Improving the effectiveness of existing programs—of which there are many and 3. Raising revenue to expand effective programs/ supports such as those administered through the Joint Office. Increasing funding alone does not ensure better outcomes and livability for all residents of the greater Portland area.

We are concerned that rapidly pushing through a ballot measure to voters that establishes a new tax with no provisions for reevaluation of the need (through a sunset provision) ***does not build in accountability to voters*** and is more likely to fail. The foreshortened timeline has not allowed for adequate outreach and community input from stakeholders.

Voters should have the ability to reconsider a tax that is meant to address urgent needs in a few years. It may be the need for funding for this systemic issue will continue, but voters deserve the right to evaluate the outcomes of programs funded by the tax and determine whether funds are being spent in an appropriate and effective manner. Please incorporate a sunset provision to ensure accountability to voters and the communities you serve.

Sincerely,

Mariah Dula
President of the Board, Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Submit testimony to Metro Council [#23]
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 9:28:49 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Name * Kirk Masterson

Email * [*removed*](#)

Address ☐ *removed*

Your testimony

Greetings,

I'm a metro constituent who is strongly opposed to Metro ORDINANCE NO. 20-1442. I'm a bleeding heart liberal who believes homelessness is a key issue in the greater Portland Metro area, and who is eager to find a solution.

I urge you to vote NO against ORDINANCE NO. 20-1442 . This ordinance appears to be rushed through the process in just 13 weeks, and seems to be a blatant appeal to voters to saddle a small percentage of Metro citizens with the burden to fund a vague remediation of the homeless problem.

The homeless problem affects all metro constituents, and every taxpayer should be part of the solution.

Furthermore the ordinance funds a 10 year program which is overseen by an un-elected committee. Shortening the excessive 10 year term to 2 years would be good start, and having some mechanism for citizens to weigh in would help mitigate the risk here.

In addition there are no metrics for success of the ordinance. How do we know that this is succeeding? The self governing committee will certainly approve an ongoing tax to fund their ongoing efforts regardless of efficacy for self-preservation.

You should either fund a long term mission with very specific criteria, or a vague effort for a shorter term. But a long term effort with vague results seems like a poor use of public funds and a rushed decision.

I realize that there are macro-political forces in effect here, but that's no excuse to put forth short-sighted legislation. Better to take a breath and build a detailed and reasoned approach to this issue.

Thanks,
~kirk masterson

Tom Cusack Testimony for Public Hearing on Metro Ordinance No. 20-1422 February 25, 2020.

I am writing to testify on Ordinance No. 20-1442 and related resolutions and exhibits.

For the record I live in Lake Oswego and am a retired Oregon HUD Field Office Director. I was privileged to work for HUD for 34 years, the last 27 years in Oregon where I served as FHA Multifamily and Single-Family Director and then later as the head of the Oregon Field Office for 9 years.

While at HUD I participated in a number of Metro housing related advisory groups and, since my retirement, I have also served on several nonprofit boards and advisory groups.

I am also a former public housing resident and a Vietnam Veteran. Since my retirement I author the Oregon Housing Blog. (I also have a Safeway Club Card).

I have two issues and 4 related recommendations:

My Issues

1. The current Metro documents are not clear about what the priorities are for spending.
2. There are 594 HUD allocated but not yet used VASH and Mainstream vouchers that can be used in the interim before any tax collection begins. With or without ballot measure passage, utilization of those vouchers is critical for housing authorities to be able to compete for an additional \$539 million in HUD funding for these programs this year.

Issue #1 More Clarity Needed About the Distribution of Funds and the Priority Order of Populations to be Served.

Issue #1 Recommendations:

1. Confirm that the BALLOT TITLE accurately states the distribution after 2021 and 2022:
"Allocates funds to counties by estimated revenue collected within each county.
2. Clarify with a table format the priority for services by population.
3. Confirm that the priority for services by population is not fixed but can be changed by the Metro Council.

Issue # 1 Background:

I have reviewed the proposed Ordinance and related resolutions and the *HereTogether* "Regional Policy Framework" and "Governance Framework" to better understand the funding priorities for allocation and spending revenue raised from the proposed Portland Metro ballot homeless supportive services measure.

Where Will the Funding Will Be Distributed?

The Ordinance has relevant language in Section 7.

First, the first two years allocation of funds will be split between the counties with 21 1/3% to Clackamas County, 45 1/3% to Multnomah County, and 33 1/3% to Washington County. Then " the percentages may be adjusted to reflect the portion of Supportive Housing Services Revenue actually collected in each County. "

After the first two years (2021 and 2022), the BALLOT TITLE says clearly that the measure "Allocates funds to counties by estimated revenue collected within each county" so my belief is that the funds will be allocated in years 2022+ based on where they are raised. (Currently there are no documents posted with projections of how many tax filers will be subject to the tax and how much revenue will be collected--the only reference is to the ECONorthwest Feb 2020 document presented previously).

Who Gets the Money, In What Order, and With What Services?

Second, Resolution No. 20-5085 says that the Council "directs staff to use the attached [*HereTogether*] Policy Framework..and Governance Framework....for further planning and implementation with Metro, local governments, service providers and other implementers, and the community."

In the *HereTogether* Governance Framework paragraphs (a)-(c) of *Section 6 Funding Priorities/Priority Service Populations* identifies the waterfall of funding priorities and the related definitions to be used.

Paragraphs (a)-(c) however are written in narrative form and it is difficult to determine the order of the populations served and what services apply to each priority.

To clarify those spending priorities I constructed the table below which is my effort to better understand these priorities and services.

A closer look will show that there are differences based on race and marginalized status, disability status, income level, severe cost burden, doubled up status, and the kind and length of housing support.

I do NOT think these priorities are legally binding or not subject to change, but some might disagree. I also may have misinterpreted the intended priority. ***The key point for me however is that table format like this would be useful so that all have a clearer AND common understanding of who gets priority for the funding, and in what order.***

| DRAFT Understanding of Metro Ballot Measure Homeless Tax Funding Priorities for Service Populations | | | | |
|--|---|---|------|---|
| | 75% of Funding, With B Funded Only After A NEEDS SATISFIED | | THEN | 25% of Funding, priority" TO CATEGORY C1 |
| Factor | Category A | Category B | | Category C1 |
| | | | | Category C2 |
| Race/Ethnicity/Marginalized Status | People of Color and members of other historically marginalized communities | NOT People of Color or Marginalized Historically | | People of Color and members of other historically Martinized communities |
| Income Level | Extremely Low income (30% MFI) | Extremely Low income (30% MFI) | | VERY Low Income (50% MFI) |
| Disability Status | One or more disabling conditions | One or more disabling conditions | | NOT Disabled |
| Homeless Status/RENT Burden | Experiencing long term or frequent episodes of literal homeless OR at imminent risk of experiencing long term or frequent episodes of literal homeless INCLUDING DOUBLING UP. SEVERE Rent Burden NOT Required | Experiencing long term or frequent episodes of literal homeless OR at imminent risk of experiencing long term or frequent episodes of literal homeless INCLUDING DOUBLING UP. SEVERE Rent Burden NOT Required | | SEVERE RENT BURDEN or Other Circumstances, OR Face a Substantial risk of homelessness. |
| Doubled Up Counts as Literal Homelessness? | Counts as Literal Homelessness | Counts as Literal Homelessness | | Doubled Up Doesn't Count as Literal Homelessness? |
| Homeless Definition | Dept of EDUCATION NOT HUD | Dept of EDUCATION NOT HUD | | Dept of EDUCATION NOT HUD |
| Kind of Assistance | Long Term Rental Assistance AND Culturally Specific supportive housing services | SCALE Rental Assistance AND Culturally Specific supportive housing services | | Rent Assistance and Support Services |
| SOURCE: OREGON HOUSING BLOG Interpretation of Paragraphs (a)-(c) of Section 6 of Regional Governance Framework-FINAL | | | | |

ISSUE # 2: Full use of 594 HUD allocated but yet unused VASH and Mainstream vouchers will help meet need before any tax revenue can be collected and full use is essential to position housing authorities to compete for an additional \$539 Million in funding that should open for competition this year.

Issue # 2 Recommendation:

4. ADD to your implementation timeline periodic check ins on where the local partners are relative to full use of the existing not yet used VASH and Mainstream vouchers AND the status of HUD Special Purpose NOFA's and local applications for additional VASH and Mainstream funding.

Issue # 2 Background

There are 594 Not Yet Used HUD Special Purpose Vouchers Available Now to Meet Metro Supportive Housing Needs

While the Council and Metro residents decide whether to approve the proposed ballot measure it's important to point out that there are 594 yet unused HUD funded VASH and Mainstream housing vouchers in the three-county area that can be used to provide supportive services and housing to those in need. (My blog post here has full details:

<https://oregonhousing.blogspot.com/2020/02/metro-portland-good-news-594-allocated.html>)

IF the Metro need is for 3,000 units of supportive housing, these not yet used vouchers can supply close to 20% of that need.

Full Utilization of These Not Yet Used Vouchers is Important Because:

1. They can fill the time gap between any voter approval of the ballot measure and the start of tax collection.
2. I estimate there is another \$539 million in funds available from HUD for future competitive awards, and awards to Portland Metro housing authorities are far less likely if existing resources are not fully used.



February 25, 2020

Dear President Peterson and Metro Councilors,

My name is Katherine Galian. I am the Director of Family and Community Resources at Community Action in Washington County and a long-time resident of Hillsboro. Since 2001, I have been an active member of the Continuum of Care working with local government and non-profit community partners to address homelessness in Washington County. We have an amazing group of dedicated people and organizations that care deeply about our homeless neighbors and are ready, willing, and able to work together to scale up the interventions we know work to alleviate the human suffering, public health risks, public safety costs, and community concern that is the result of too many in our community experiencing homelessness.

I am writing today to express my full support for the Metro Council to refer the homeless and housing services initiative HereTogether has developed to the May Ballot. The work that has been done reflects the best thinking of a wide range of stakeholders, including those with lived experience, and balances differing perspectives to achieve a common, regional goal: saving lives by reducing homelessness.

In my testimony to you on February 13th, I told you about my friend Johnny who lived under the large cedar tree in the parking lot of the Plaid Pantry across the street from our office in Hillsboro. Johnny struggled with homelessness, severe depression, and alcohol abuse on the streets of Washington County for 14 years after the death of his wife. Johnny's death was hastened by years of exposure to the elements and a lack of access to regular medical care. Before he died, Johnny gave me a picture of his dad. He came in to our office and asked me to hold on to it for him for safe keeping. He told me that a lot of his things had gotten wet the night before when two men attacked him in his camp and urinated on him. This picture was the last thing he had to remind him of his family, of a better time, and he wanted to make sure it was safe. I still keep that picture in an envelope above my desk as a reminder of Johnny and as a reminder of how much more could have been done to end his homelessness or prevent it in the first place. For what it cost our community to treat Johnny's chronic health conditions in the emergency department, hospital stays, ambulance trips, police non-emergency calls, shelter stays, the occasional trespassing arrest and jail booking, and other public services, he and - likely several others - could have been housed and supported with the services we know work to end homelessness permanently – outreach, treatment, case management, rental assistance, and basic health and mental health care.

I will always remember Johnny not just for who he was as an individual and the stories that he shared with me over the last few years of his life, but also as a reminder that our systems – as effective as they are at helping some – do not have adequate resources or flexibility to serve all of the people like Johnny. Not because we don't know what to do, but because we have not had enough of the right supports to help him get and stay housed. The timeline is short, and there is much work to be done, but Johnny and the thousands like him that find themselves outside without a clear path to housing there is no time to waste. For those that are barely hanging on to their homes and worry that they may be the next Johnny, now is the time. Fully funding this measure at



\$250 Million will allow us to address the unmet needs of those who are currently living and dying on our streets and prevent our most vulnerable populations from experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your efforts to get this measure to the scale we know is needed to truly address the needs of the chronically homeless and at risk population in our region. This important measure will improve the lives of so many of our neighbors who are experiencing or are on the verge of experiencing homelessness. Thank you, so much, for all you do to make our region a better place to live and especially for taking on this new role to lead a regional approach to addressing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Katherine King Galian

Director of Family and Community Resources

(503) 693-3294

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Submit testimony to Metro Council [#19]
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2020 7:29:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Name * Nancy Hedrick

Email * [*removed*](#)

Address ☐ *removed*

Your testimony Please support efforts to make electric buses a bigger part of our Trimet fleet. So much of Portland (especially where I live in N Ptld) has such a high particulate count from dirty diesel of trucks and old school buses, that we don't want Trimet to be part of our pollution or part of our delay in addressing the climate crisis. I am also one of those individuals with a decided petrochemical allergy, who would prefer to drive to catch the Max, over taking my nearer bus #35...as I will be healthier later on. Thank you. Nancy Hedrick, North Portland

Is your testimony related to an item on an upcoming agenda? * Yes

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Submit testimony to Metro Council [#20]
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 9:12:42 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Name * Landon Wyndham

Email * [*removed*](#)

Address ☐ *removed*

Your testimony

Hello,I am Landon S Wyndham, and I strongly oppose new diesel buses. And I support a plan for a Zero Emissions fleet, as soon as conceivably possible.

I am a young man, who has lived in Portland all of his life, and I plan to live here for many decades to come. I have three young nephews, who I care about very much, and I worry about the effects the diesel pollution could have on their health. This city has always symbolized for me an environmental beacon, with the parks the bikes, and yes, with the Trimet. However, upon visiting other major cities, I notice a proliferation of greener buses and I notice that Portland Trimet has fallen behind. This sets a bad precedent of representative environmentalism, over genuine action. And, on a steadily warming earth, that is not tolerable.

I write this with a simple demand that my voice be heard and acknowledged, so would you kindly respond, please.

Sincerely, Landon Wyndham, Portland, 97212

Is your testimony related to an item Yes
on an upcoming agenda? *

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Submit testimony to Metro Council [#21]
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2020 10:45:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Name * ira erbs

Email * [*removed*](#)

Address ☐ *removed*

Your testimony We need Trimet to be part of the solution, not part of the problem two ways to have a huge impact on reducing pollution are electric buses and free fair.

Is your testimony related to an item on an upcoming agenda? * Yes

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Submit testimony to Metro Council [#24]
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 7:59:12 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Name * Sean McClintock

Email * [*removed*](#)

Address ☐ *removed*

Your testimony

I call on you, our elected leaders, to take immediate action to address our dire climate emergency. CANCEL the order for the 157 DIESEL buses and instead focus on electrifying the bus system.

Those diesel buses have a 20-year lifespan. Converting them from diesel to electric in later years is insufficient and inefficient. Your financial models, which I have reviewed, did not sufficiently price the --externalized-- costs of the diesel emissions.

We are in an EMERGENCY due to our usage of fossil fuels and must take steps now and make the better decisions. Please take a leadership role and be the ones who are capable of making the difficult choices for us. Thanks!

Is your testimony related to an item on an upcoming agenda? * Yes

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: [External sender]Submit testimony to Metro Council [#27]
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 1:51:44 PM

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| | |
|--------|---------------|
| Name * | Rachel Schutz |
|--------|---------------|

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Email * | *removed* |
|---------|---------------------------|

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Your testimony | I am writing in support of the bill to provide funding for permanent supportive housing services to the metro region. Ending homelessness is one of the most important efforts of our time, and it doesn't just require buildings. It requires the supportive services and intervene, support, and prevent homelessness in the first place. What those services need is funding to be sustainable. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and I look forward to seeing it on the May ballot. |
|----------------|--|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Is your testimony related to an item on an upcoming agenda? * | Yes |
|---|-----|

From: [Andy Miller](#)
To: [Metro Council](#)
Cc: [BrocheAroe Fabian](#); [Lisa Frack](#)
Subject: [External sender]Testimony in Support of Ordinance No 20-1442 and the Implementing Resolutions 20-5083 and 20-5085
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 12:47:53 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Members of the Metro Council:

I am the Executive Director of Human Solutions, an organization that has been on the front lines of countering the forces that cause homelessness, poverty and housing insecurity in East Multnomah County for the last 31 years. We are a proud member of the Here Together Coalition and were at the table to craft the framework before you today. Human Solutions provides a continuum of services that include emergency shelter, rental assistance, permanent supportive housing, conventional affordable housing, employment support and prevention services - all to advance our mission in the most diverse area of our Portland Region – East Multnomah County. East Multnomah County, which spans from East Portland to Gresham, Troutdale and beyond, is rich with diverse communities of color and gains strength from the from the rich cultures and peoples who are coming together to build and grow roots in neighborhoods and communities that face at a critical tipping point. Without courageous new investments, the people of East Multnomah County may lose the homes they are now barely holding onto against the forceful winds of rising rents, redevelopment pressures and the failure of the benefits of our region’s growing economy to reach families and residents here. Many have already lost their homes and fallen into homelessness – we see new tents and encampments on our streets every week, and growing waiting lists for our shelter beds and affordable housing. And even more households sit today looking at the bleak prospect of raising a generation of children who may never know a real home – a place in which they can do their homework, celebrate birthdays and simply be kids. Too many schools in Centennial, Reynolds, David Douglas and Gresham Barlow have rates of student mobility and homelessness at the top of the state rankings. Without bold action, we run the risk of seeing much of the next generation growing up in East Multnomah County with the shadow or reality of homelessness being a constant part of their childhood. That is no way to experience childhood.

With this measure, you have the power to create a different future, one in which homelessness no longer the constant threat or reality it is today. Your vote today has the power to profoundly impact the next generation who call our region home. By raising resources from those who have the ability to pay more of their fair share to restore to many individuals and families the basic human right of a place to call home this measure has the power to not only end our Region’s homeless crisis, but to do so through truly equitable means.

We already have the tools to end homelessness – we know what works. At Human Solutions, the families and individuals with whom we are able to partner see a quick and permanent end to their homelessness when we are able to provide the kind of supportive housing prioritized by this measure and by the framework for implementing it brought forward by the Here Together Coalition. But for every person or family we are currently able to partner with, we estimate we

From: [Adam Koller](#)
To: bcc@clackamas.us; gambam@milwaukieoregon.gov; CouncilDistribution@ci.oswego.or.us; [Metro Council](#)
Subject: [External sender]Willamette River Crossing
Date: Monday, February 24, 2020 10:09:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Please consider this project. It is unsafe to travel between East Portland and Clackamas County using alternatives to cars/buses. This will help make our region more desirable and keep people safe.

--

Adam Koller

must turn away or waitlist 8-10 more. It is like putting a roof on a house with too few shingles - however you lay those shingles, the rain pours in just the same. This measure changes that = it buys enough “shingles” to ensure a clean, dry, sustainable roof over our entire region, so everyone stays dry and so homelessness as an institution we see every day in every quadrant of this beautiful place we call home – becomes a thing of the past.

I thank Metro for its emerging partnership in solving our Region’s crisis, commend your courage and boldness to bring forward a truly equitable approach at a scale to meaningfully respond to our community crisis. I urge you to pass these measures and pledge that our organization will work tirelessly to ensure they pass at the ballot box and, moreover, to ensure that we implement what will be historic resources effectively, equitably and responsibly to end this human crisis and to create a bright future for everyone in this beautiful region. Thank you.

Andy Miller
Executive Director
Pronouns: He/Him/His

Human Solutions
12350 SE Powell Boulevard
Portland OR 97236
503.548.0240(direct) 503.709.8046(mobile)
amiller@humansolutions.org
www.humansolutions.org

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION by making a gift to Human Solutions today! With your support, we can get closer to our goal that *everyone* in our community has a safe and affordable place to call home. It’s easy to do – [just click here right now](#). Thank you for being part of the solution.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

February 24, 2020

Metro President Lynn Peterson and Council
Metro Regional Government
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear President Peterson and Metro Council Members,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners to offer our gratitude for Metro's support and leadership in helping to solve the region's homelessness crisis. Metro led the successful passage of the 2018 Housing Bond, setting an example that working together strengthens our region.

We have tremendous unmet needs in Clackamas County.

We presently have limited supportive housing resources and are only able to serve 218 households at a time. At the current turnover rate, it would take over 20 years to serve the households already on our waitlists.

In 2017 the Housing Authority opened its waitlists and 7,892 households applied. Of those, 5,039 applied for Public Housing and 2,853 applied for a voucher, and only 17% were added to the voucher list. The Housing Authority has not been able to pull any of the families who applied in 2017 off of the waitlist due to a lack of openings. Of the households served by our Housing Authority, due to limited federal funds and rising market rents, 12% of Clackamas County residents are paying 40% or more of their income on housing, even with assistance.

The scale of the need consistently outpaces our capacity to respond. While we served 394 households through our homeless housing programs in 2019, 513 new households were added to these waitlists.

In a school district liaison report to our County housing staff, approximately 1,600 school children are experiencing homelessness.

From: [Kyle Armstrong](#)
To: [Legislative Coordinator](#)
Subject: FW: [External sender]
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 3:55:25 PM

Hi Nellie,

Here is some testimony regarding supportive housing.

From: Jeremy S [mailto:jeremy.shiflett@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Kyle Armstrong
Subject: [External sender]

CAUTION: This email originated from an **External source**. Do not open links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Metro Council,

My coworker recently sent you the following email:

Metro Council,

I am writing to you as a Portland resident and a City of Portland employee who works day in and day out with the homeless population. I am urging you to table the proposed homeless services measure until you have a clear plan for what the money would be spent on. Asking voters, most of whom would not even pay the tax, to write a blank check is deceptive and irresponsible.

As a first responder I interact with the homeless every day. I see the devastating effect it is having on the livability of our community. Despite the enormous amount of resources we as a community have put towards the problem, it is not getting better. It is getting worse. This is not a problem that money alone can solve. It is my view that we are making it way too easy and convenient to be homeless in this city. Free tents, free needles, free phones, a police force whose hands have been so tied that they cannot enforce the laws. Yes, addiction and mental health are root causes, but there is no incentive for these people to get into the system to take advantage of the job training, mental health and addiction treatment that you are proposing. Perhaps the answer is not more handouts, but less. Perhaps compassion does not need to be confused with turning a blind eye.

Before you refer this measure to the ballot I urge you to come up with a concrete plan to show the voters that you can be responsible stewards of our money.

Respectfully,

Jake Gartland

Now I fully agree with Jake's sentiments but I am not near as eloquent nor am I as tolerant. I am angry that this homeless situation has gotten to the point it has, and I have zero faith in recent decisions made on behalf of the public. As a public employee I am bound to follow

certain rules and tolerate some of this, but as a resident of SE Portland I am also a citizen who is fed up with the garbage, crime, drug use and vandalism affecting me that would not be an issue if this problem were addressed correctly. More money is not the solution. If you look at your facts and figures you will note that an increase in funding over the last few years has not solved this problem. In fact, it's been throwing gas on the fire. If you feel the need to continue the same insanity of funding this "crisis", might I suggest you start by using your own paycheck and not mine. Allow the criminals to camp in your yard and not out in front of my house as they are currently doing. I know most of the tax payers share my concerns. If you have any ideas as to how I may assist in this endeavor please feel free to share with me as I want to be part of the solution.

Also, Respectfully

Jeremy Shiflett

In our County, the top 100 frequent utilizers of emergency departments and jail beds who are also experiencing homelessness cost those systems \$4.2 million per year, far more than the cost to house these people.

This is unacceptable.

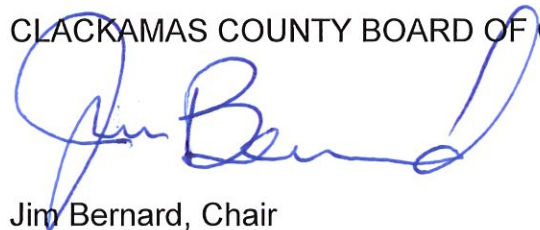
The funding generated from the supportive housing ballot measure will enable us to develop affordable housing units serving those in highest need, homeless families and individuals, by providing additional rent assistance and wrap-around services.

According to the Tri-County Equitable Housing Strategy, in order to expand supportive housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness, 440 units are needed within Clackamas County. This funding will actually provide us with the means to make that happen.

It is a rare moment when leaders from the region come together in a unified voice. We have found that voice, and we look forward to our community's future success in preventing and reducing homelessness.

Respectfully,

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Jim Bernard, Chair

On Behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners