

2014 Needs Assessment

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence



Part 1 - Housing

2014 Needs Assessment

In December 2014 the Coalition submitted a two-part needs assessment covering housing and human trafficking to the community domestic and sexual violence programs across the state. Affordable housing has been identified as a pervasive unmet need of survivors, and in order to advocate for programs and survivors, the Coalition asked programs to provide basic information about the following for the period of six months preceding the assessment:

- Housing resources currently available in their communities
- Types of housing needed
- The number of survivors using their housing resources
- The percentage of survivors that have accessed permanent affordable housing
- Affordable monthly rent
- Barriers to survivors seeking housing
- The most pressing housing needs for the Coalition to work to address

Over half of programs from each of the Coalition's seven regions turned in the needs assessment, for a total of 39 respondents. The results of the assessment are presented by region in this report.

There were several things in common across regions. The vast majority of responding programs (31) reported that no or poor rental history was a barrier to survivors seeking housing. The second most commonly cited barrier, at 25 programs, was unavailability of housing. Difficulty with making deposits and low or no income were barriers cited by 17 programs each. Funding issues and a pervasive lack of affordable housing were most frequently reported as the priorities for the Coalition to work to address. Most of the funding needs cited are for survivors themselves, including an increase to TANF and TA-DVS, long-term rental assistance, and funding to help with deposits.

The Coalition looks forward to working with programs and partners to improve housing options for survivors in Oregon.

For more information about the needs assessment, contact

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Oregon Coalition
Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

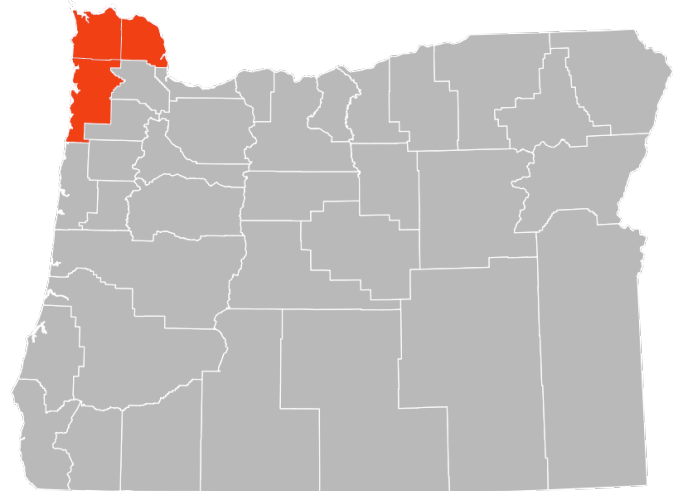
Region 1

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 1 include subsidized apartments, low-income apartments, apartments for seniors and people with disabilities, the North West Oregon Housing Authority, and Clatsop Community Action.

There is a need for more low-income and subsidized housing; housing for women, men, and children experiencing homelessness; emergency shelter space; transitional housing; and other affordable housing, including studio and one-bedroom apartments.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$617 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 1.



Survivors Served

The three responding programs from Region 1 each reported providing housing services to between 20 and 26 survivors over the six-month period of this survey. Of the survivors served, these programs report that between 10 percent and 50 percent were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

All three programs reported that poor rental history is a barrier to survivors seeking housing. Two programs reported bad credit and general housing unavailability as additional barriers. Other barriers that were reported include criminal histories, difficulty making deposits, lack of documentation, substance abuse, moving costs, low income, lack of transitional services, and long waitlists for subsidized housing.

Top Priorities

Region 1 reported that the most pressing housing needs for the Oregon Coalition to focus on are increasing housing for people experiencing homelessness, low-income housing with fewer restrictions, and housing vouchers; supporting transitional and sober-living resources; educating landlords about domestic violence, including its effect on rental history; and increasing the availability and amount of grant funding for domestic violence survivors.

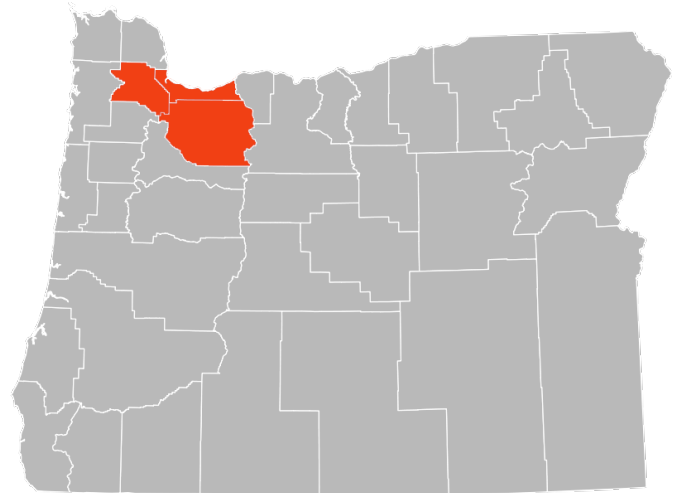
Region 2

Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 2 include Home Forward, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), emergency shelter, subsidized housing, transitional housing, County General Funds, Northwest Pilot Project, Human Solutions, Northwest Impact, Housing Connections, Recovery Association Project, Bridges to Housing, and Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives.

There is a need for more affordable, subsidized, and transitional housing, including apartments; emergency shelter; single family homes; long-term rental assistance; housing for large families; permanent supportive housing; and tax-credit units.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$699 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 2.



Survivors Served

Of the 13 responding programs from Region 2, seven track the number of survivors who utilize their housing services. Among these seven programs, the average number of survivors served over the six-month period of this survey was 40, with five being the least number reported and 105 the greatest number. Of the survivors served, these programs report that between two and 92 percent of their clients were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

The majority of responding programs indicated that lack of or poor rental history was a barrier to survivors seeking housing. A majority also reported low or no income and unavailable housing as barriers. Five programs specified difficulty with deposits and criminal histories as barriers, while four flagged ongoing safety concerns and moving costs. Other barriers identified by programs include language, discrimination, immigration status, credit history, debt, the size of available housing, and a lack of knowledge about relevant laws and rights.

Top Priorities

Four programs identified the limited availability of affordable, permanent housing and subsidized housing as the most pressing housing need for the Oregon Coalition to address. Two programs indicated the need to increase affordable housing in safe neighborhoods, and two noted the importance of affordable units for individuals with no children. Other suggested areas of focus for the Oregon Coalition include expanding emergency shelter options and resources, increasing the availability of long-term rental assistance and affordable housing available to survivors with children, elderly people, and people with disabilities; educating landlords and policymakers about domestic violence; increasing transitional housing, TANF, and the TA-DVS grant; addressing the effects of gentrification; and working to achieve Section 8 prioritization for survivors.

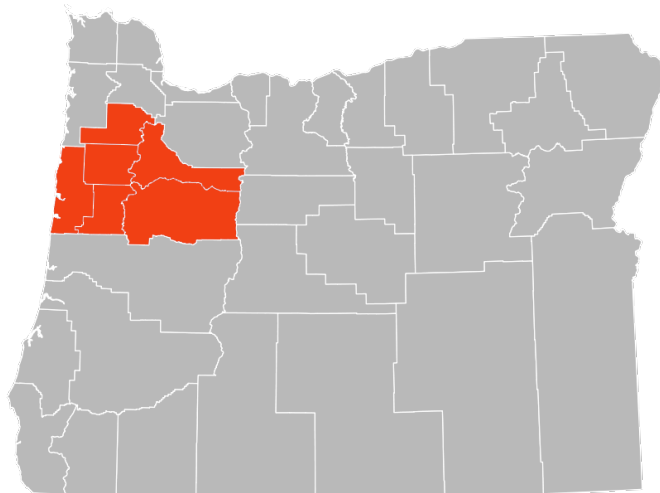
Region 3

Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 3 include the Housing Authority (county-specific), the Tribal Housing Authority, limited subsidized housing, and Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services.

There is a need for more low-income housing; transitional shelter; affordable housing for people without children and people with disabilities; emergency shelter; shelter for extreme weather; more apartment options, including one and three-bedroom units; and housing for homeless families and individuals.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$513 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 3.



Survivors Served

Of the six responding programs from Region 3, three track the number of survivors who utilize their housing services. These three programs reported providing housing services to between 5 and 42 survivors. Of the survivors served, these programs report that between 10 percent and 12 percent were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

The majority of responding programs indicated that lack of or poor rental history is a barrier to survivors seeking housing. Half of programs reported that unavailable housing and difficulty with deposits are barriers, and two programs listed criminal history as a barrier. Other barriers identified by programs are moving costs, long waitlists, the availability of transportation, low income, and housing that is too small to accommodate entire families.

Top Priorities

Two programs reported transitional housing as the most pressing need for the Oregon Coalition to address. Other priorities that were identified include funding to enable shelters to house survivors for longer periods of time; alternatives to shelter; better bus lines and connections; more apartment options, low-income housing, and rental assistance; and the needs of homeless women and children.

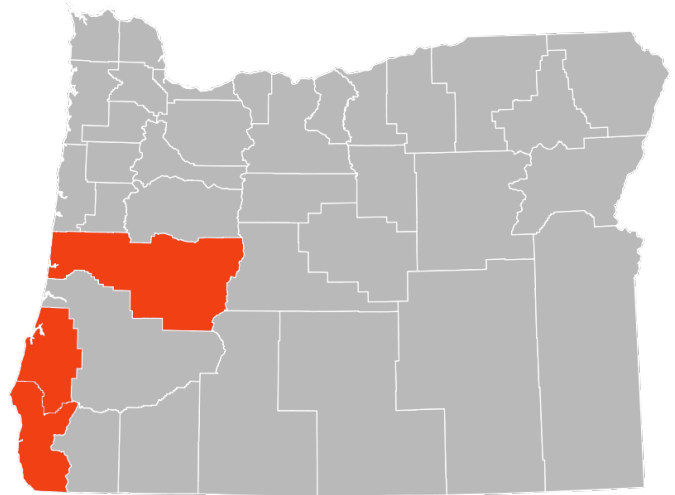
Region 4

Coos, Curry, Lane

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 4 include the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO), and St. Vincent de Paul.

There is a need for more low-cost housing; subsidized housing; transitional housing; housing for families, people with disabilities, and those not considered low-income but who are still unable to afford rent; and one and two-bedroom options for individuals and couples.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$733 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 4.



Survivors Served

Of the three responding programs from Region 4, two track the number of survivors who utilize their housing services. These two programs reported providing housing services to 29 and 13 survivors, respectively. Of the survivors served, these programs report that 93 percent and 85 percent were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

The majority of responding programs indicated that moving costs and criminal histories are barriers to survivors seeking housing. Other barriers identified by programs are little or no income, poor work history, lack of or poor rental history, bad credit, unavailable housing, difficulty with deposits, and access to resources.

Top Priorities

Region 4 reported that the most pressing housing needs for the Oregon Coalition to address are long term low-income housing for families, lack of subsidized housing, and deficient living conditions of existing Section 8 housing.

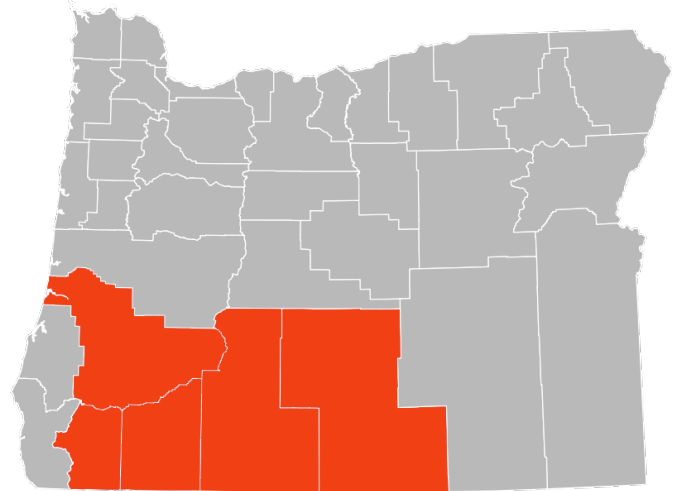
Region 5

Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 5 include the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Housing Authority (county-specific), Medford Better Housing, ACCESS, NeighborWorks Umpqua, Umpqua Community Action Network, program-owned housing, subsidized family apartment complexes, and subsidized apartment complexes for seniors and people with disabilities.

There is a need for more subsidized housing options; assisted living for seniors; affordable single-person units; transitional housing; affordable options for people with a criminal history, poor credit or poor rental history; and low-income housing with oversight to ensure housing meets standards.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$519 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 5.



Survivors Served

Of the six responding programs from Region 5, three track the number of survivors who utilize their housing services. These three programs reported providing housing services to between 10 and 132 survivors. Only one program tracks the number of survivors who access permanent, affordable housing. At that program, 22 percent of survivors who utilized the housing services were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

The majority of responding programs indicated that affordability is a barrier to survivors seeking housing. Half of programs reported that lack of or poor rental history, lack of or insufficient income, and difficulty with deposits are barriers. Other barriers identified by programs are long wait lists, transportation, unemployment, substance abuse, criminal history, and safety concerns.

Top Priorities

Region 5 reported that the most pressing housing needs for the Oregon Coalition to address are collaborations between county Housing Authorities and programs, transitional housing, expansion of public transportation, two and three-bedroom housing options that are affordable on a single income or TANF, more information about housing grants, and rapid re-housing programs.

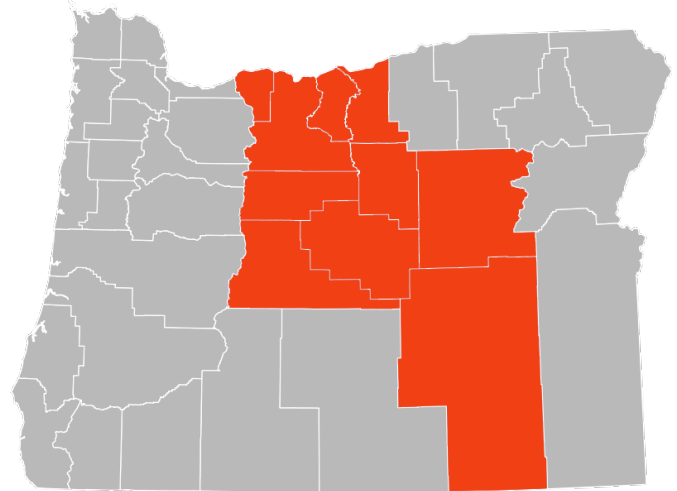
Region 6

Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 5 include Mid Columbia Housing Authority, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), low-income apartments, subsidized housing, and DV grants.

There is a need for more rental housing, low-income housing, transitional housing, affordable housing for single women and single mothers, and housing for those on parole/probation or recently released from jail.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$644 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 6.

\$300



\$1500

Survivors Served

The four responding programs from Region 6 reported providing housing services to between one and 246 survivors. Of the survivors served, these programs report that between .015 percent and 100 percent were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

The majority of responding programs indicated that unavailable housing and no or poor rental history are barriers. Half of programs reported that difficulty with deposits and lack of or low income are barriers. Other barriers identified by programs are criminal history, poor credit, and lack of transportation.

Top Priorities

Region 6 listed funding for low-income housing, more affordable housing, funding for survivors without children, and transitional housing for survivors with mental health issues and for homeless women as the most important needs for the Oregon Coalition to address.

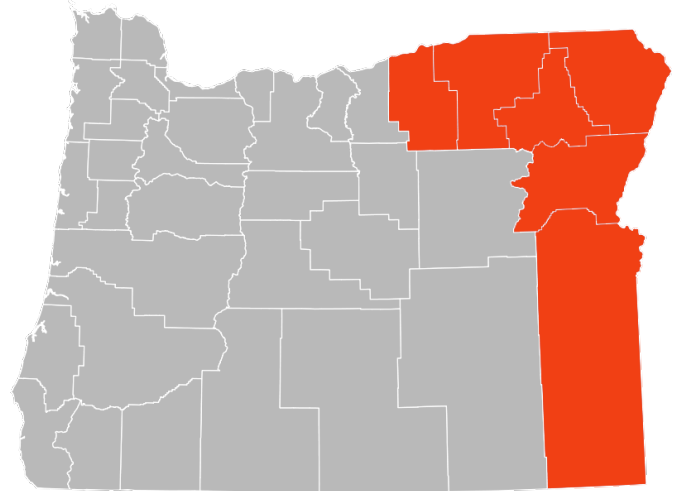
Region 7

Baker, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa

Current Resources and Ongoing Needs

Housing resources currently available in Region 7 include Community Connections, the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO), the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community in Action, and low-cost rentals.

There is a need for transitional housing, apartments and houses with rent based on income, housing for seniors, and housing for individuals without children.



Affordable Monthly Rent

\$475 is the average of programs' estimates of an affordable monthly payment for a one-bedroom apartment in Region 7.



Survivors Served

The four responding programs from Region 7 reported providing housing services to between five and 956 survivors. Of the survivors served, these programs report that between 30 percent and 50 percent were able to access permanent, affordable housing.

Barriers to Housing

The majority of responding programs indicated that unavailable housing and no or poor rental history are barriers. Half of programs reported that poor credit history, lack of or low income, and difficulties with deposits are barriers. Other barriers identified by programs are criminal history and lack of basic necessities including dishes and cookware.

Top Priorities

Region 6 listed transitional housing, second chance programs, funding to help survivors with deposits, and increasing available affordable housing generally as the most important needs for the Oregon Coalition to address.