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This newsletter contains information and updates from the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

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## To our colleagues, partners and community members,

Welcome to the Joint Office of Homeless Services monthly newsletter!

The purpose of this newsletter is to help you learn more about our collective work and shared commitment to addressing homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County.

Follow us on:



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**If you are experiencing homelessness and need assistance, please call 211 or go to [211info.org](https://211info.org).**

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Question of the month:

**What are the root causes of homelessness in our area?**

(scroll to the bottom of the newsletter to see the answer)

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## Grand Opening of Las Adelitas!

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Bond and Metro's Supportive Housing Services measure. The Portland Housing Bond is now at the halfway mark with 900 units open — housing for nearly 2000 Portlanders in need.



## Groundbreaking for Arbor Lodge Shelter Renovation



**RENDERING**  
CORNER OF N. LOMBARD AND N. DENVER  
(PLACEHOLDER IMAGE FOR MURAL)



**RENDERING**  
LOOKING NORTH ON N. DENVER FROM  
SW CORNER OF SITE

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Good Multnomah and elected officials, and see the plan for the site.

**3:30 - 5 pm this Thursday March 16th at 1952 North Lombard.**

## Thank You Point-in-Time Count Volunteers!

A big thank you so much to all of the Outreach Workers and Volunteers who spent their time surveying individuals who were unsheltered on the night of the Point-in-Time (PIT) during the last week of January. This was the first ever tri-county PIT Count and we had a large group of amazing individuals who canvassed the entire tri-county region to reach as many neighbors experiencing homelessness.



Thank you again to all staff, partners and volunteers. We appreciate your generosity and compassion around this work. [More info about this year's Point-in-Time Count.](#)

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## Provider Spotlight: TPI's Compass Program

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Leah transitioned from Jean's Place into [Transition Projects' Compass program](#), which offers permanent housing to trans and non-binary individuals. While homeless, she encountered bigotry and was so relieved to find a shelter where she felt safe. "This is our last, best hope."

## Statewide Funding Opportunity



Oregon Housing and Community Services released two requests for proposals (RFP) this past month, one aimed at preserving naturally occurring affordable housing through the Acquisition of Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (ANOAH) program and the other supporting the development of childcare facilities in affordable housing developments (CARE).

Both RFP opportunities are open to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to apply for an initial funding amount of \$10M. These pilot programs aim to explore innovative ways to preserve affordable housing and integrate early childcare and education with affordable housing developments.

For more information about these RFPs, go to the [Procurement webpage](#). There will be more funding opportunities made available in the next

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

The Joint Office of Homeless Services has advisory boards and committees that give community input to Joint Office leadership and to the Portland City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. These advisory groups provide opportunities for community members to learn about the Joint Office's work, bring a community perspective to our decision-making, and make recommendations on programs, services and policies.

**Continuum of Care (CoC) Advisory Committee:** The Continuum of Care Board meets March 16, 2023 at 11:00am. This meeting will focus on important updates and a presentation by the a CoC provider. The latter half of the meeting will be used as a working session for CoC planning. The public is welcome to attend the meeting via this [Zoom webinar link](#). [More info](#) about the Continuum of Care Advisory committee.

**Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)** for the Joint Office of Homeless Services: March meeting [was held on March 8, 2023](#) from 11:00am to 1:00pm. There will be a SPECIAL March 21, 2023 Meeting, at 4:00pm-6:00pm ([Zoom Webinar Link](#)). This committee reviews and makes recommendations on county departmental budgets and operations. CBAC meetings are posted on the [Office of Community Involvement Website](#). For more information about CBACs please visit the [Office of Community Involvement](#).

For more information on our advisory boards and committees, including how to attend a meeting, please visit <https://www.multco.us/johs/johs-community-advisory-bodies>. Please email us at [johscommunityadvisory@multco.us](mailto:johscommunityadvisory@multco.us) with any questions.

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## Request for Programmatic Qualifications



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**The Joint Office of Homeless Services**  
is currently recruiting new organizations that  
work in homeless services to be eligible to  
apply for funding.

**Deadline is March 17th**  
**More info: [multco.us/shs](https://multco.us/shs)**

The Joint Office of Homeless Services, along with Clackamas County, Washington County and Metro Regional Government, are currently recruiting new organizations that work in homeless services to be eligible to apply for funding. **Applications due March 17th.** More info at <https://multco.us/shs>

## State and Federal Updates

### Fair Housing Training

During the past few months, Oregon Housing and Community Services and the Fair Housing Council partnered to offer a series of Fair Housing trainings. These were free webinars for anyone interested in learning more about fair

housing issues statewide and how to prevent illegal housing discrimination in Oregon. These sessions are now available online for anyone who either missed



### What is Fair Housing?

**Fair Housing is the right of all people to be free from illegal discrimination in the rental, sale, or financing of housing.**

**In rental housing, these laws cover the application process, tenancy, and move out.**



## OHCS hosts overview of "All In" Federal Plan

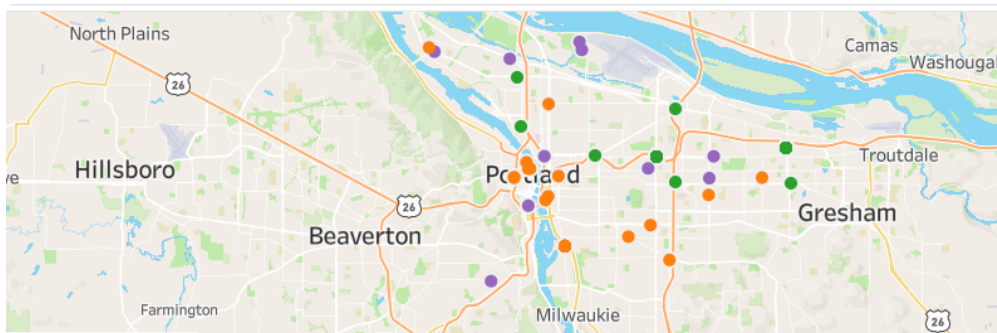
The Biden administration announced a comprehensive plan to cut homelessness by 25% by 2025. All In, the new Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, was developed by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) as a blueprint for localities to create their own plans to prevent and end homelessness and set their own ambitious goals for 2025. Katy Miller, senior regional adviser for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, provided a virtual overview of the federal plan. [Watch the recording](#).

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## Updated Shelter Map

Check out our [newly-updated shelter map](#) on the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) website. The map shows the location of all JOHS-supported shelters, including how to reserve a bed, population served and services provided at each shelter. You can also scroll backwards in time to 2015, to see the number and locations of shelters added each year since then.

**Shelter Map** by [Joint Office of Homeless Services](#)



If you have trouble viewing the map, you can also [view the list of shelters](#).

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## Montavilla Safe Park Provider Selected

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[Services](#) has been selected to operate the soon-to-be-under-construction site located at 333 S.E. 82nd Ave. (a former RV sales lot). The shelter will be a "safe park" village providing a place for people who live in passenger vehicles (not RVs) to park their vehicles, sleep

and access services on their path to securing permanent housing. The site will open in 2023, with an exact date to be determined.

Straightway Services, which is calling the shelter The Light Community, will provide on-site, 24/7 services. The site will be fenced and will be available through reservations. Participants will have on-site access to trash service, showers, restrooms, laundry, a kitchenette and housing services and supports.

Straightway Services, founded by Pastor Dwight Minniweather, has been serving the community for 22 years with programs focused on youth, workforce development, and homeless services.

"It means the world to us to operate this shelter and support an alternative way of helping people who sleep in vehicles," Minniweather said. "This will give them a location to stay and pull the cars off the road. And, we'll make it a community with educational opportunities, employment opportunities and connection to peer mentors.

"This will be more than just a place to sleep. It will be a holistic community where people can become self-sufficient," Minniweather said.

[More information about the Montavilla Safe Park Village](#): The Light Community

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## NEW Mobile Intake Team for Elders, Veterans and Disabled People

A new program, funded by the Metro Supportive Housing Services measure, has been launched through a partnership between the Joint Office of Homeless Services and the Department of County Human Services to deploy a mobile intake team to shelters to complete Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS)



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case managers to outreach to people that may be eligible for ADVSD services including food stamps, health insurance, home care workers, and community based placements in care settings.

Additionally, there is a Housing Support Specialist who assists with finding and or keeping housing. This team is prioritizing COVID-19 shelters, culturally specific shelters, and day spaces

where people experiencing homelessness go to receive other services including the Mead Building, the Behavioral Health Resource Center, and temporary severe weather shelters, and accepting referrals from community partners.



This is the first time the Joint Office and the County Human Services Department have teamed up to offer a mobile intake team. This is in response to feedback from our community of providers and people that have experienced homelessness.

Email for referral or information:

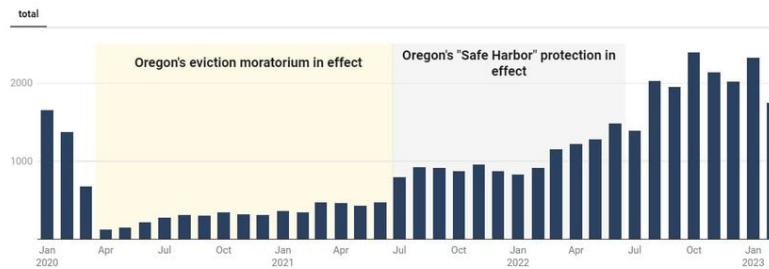
- Jody Michaelson, ADVSD Homeless Mobile Intake and Transition and Diversion Branch Manager, [jody.l.michaelson@multco.us](mailto:jody.l.michaelson@multco.us)
- Cristal Otero, JOHS Program Specialist Sr., [cristal.otero@multco.us](mailto:cristal.otero@multco.us)
- Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) Helpline: 503-988-3646

## Eviction prevention: legal representation keeps low-income tenants housed

Becky Straus and Emily Rena-Dozier launched the [Eviction Defense Project](#) in early 2021, securing additional support from [Metro's supportive housing services fund](#) in July 2021 when the first funding was released. This investment

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Number of Eviction Cases Filed in Oregon by Month**

As of March 01, 2023.

[Read more in this story from Metro](#) Regional News.

## JOHS In the News

### News reports about the work of the Joint Office of Homeless Services and our providers:

- [New affordable housing complex Las Adelitas opens in NE Portland's Cully Neighborhood](#) (KATU News)
- [Multnomah County opening Safe Park Village on SE 82nd Avenue](#) (KATU News)
- [Belmont Goats moved out as Portland prepares to build Safe Rest Village along Peninsula Crossing Trail](#) (KGW News)

### Resources for People Experiencing Homelessness:

- ▶ [Who to Call for What](#) - a list of hotlines, helplines and other useful phone numbers.
- ▶ Visit [Oregon Law Help](#) or [Oregon Renters Rights](#) for information about rental

### Racial Justice/Equity Resources

- ▶ [Data on Race, Ethnicity and Homelessness](#): A report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.
- ▶ [Resource Guide: Race and Homelessness](#): A guide produced by the Homelessness Research

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► [Rose City Resource Guide](#) from Street Roots - includes an updated, searchable list of food, housing, transit and other resources for the Portland area.

► [Multnomah County Workforce Equity Strategic Plan](#): How the County is addressing historic and institutional inequities within local government.

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## COVID-19 Updates

► If you test positive with an at-home test, you can self report your positive test to the Oregon Health Authority. Call the hotline at 866-917-8881 or text OHACOVID to 61222, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

► [Upcoming COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics in Multnomah County](#)

► [Regional COVID-19 dashboard](#): Case data from Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington and Yamhill counties.

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## Employment Opportunities

Current openings in the Joint Office of Homeless Services:

- [Department Director](#) - Open Until Filled
- [MAC \(Multi-Agency Collaborative\) Program Director](#) - Deadline to Apply March 23
- [Business & Operations Manager Senior](#) - Deadline to Apply March 20
- [Social Media/Communications Internship](#) (College to County program) - Deadline to Apply April 2

JOHS Partner Organization job listings:

- [2-1-1 Info](#)
- [Blanchet House](#)
- [Bradley Angle](#)
- [Bridges to Change](#)
- [Call to Safety](#)
- [Cascade AIDS Project](#)
- [Cascadia Health](#)
- [Catholic Charities](#)
- [Central City Concern](#)
- [Native American Rehabilitation Association \(NARA\)](#)
- [Native American Youth & Family Center \(NAYA\)](#)
- [Neighborhood House](#)
- [New Avenues for Youth](#)
- [Northwest Pilot Project](#)
- [Our Just Future \(formerly Human Solutions\)](#)

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|-----------|--|---|
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Do Good Multnomah</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">El Programa Hispano Católico</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Home Forward</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Immigrant &amp; Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Janus Youth</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JOIN</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Latino Network</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Multnomah County</a></li> </ul> | <a href="#">Solutions</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Raphael House of Portland</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Self Enhancement, Inc.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Transition Projects, Inc.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Urban League of Portland</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Volunteers of America</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Washington County</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Worksystems</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">YWCA of Greater Portland</a></li> </ul> |

### Answer to the Question of the Month:

The main driver of homelessness is a lack of access to affordable housing.

Since 2015, rents have risen much faster than the median income, to more than \$1,400 a month for a one-bedroom apartment in Portland, according to survey data from Multifamily NW from fall 2021. Meanwhile, more than 21,000 people in Multnomah County rely on federal disability checks that top out at \$794 a month. The Joint Office has [increased shelter beds at an unprecedented rate](#), as well as moving more people into permanent housing than ever before - but new households are falling into homelessness every day. [More info and background on the causes of homelessness.](#)

As UCLA Professor Ananya Roy [recently pointed out](#), "The moment at hand is a time of mass homelessness. We are also in this country...on the cusp of mass evictions that will greatly increase mass homelessness. At the same time, what is going on is unregulated corporate acquisition of rental property. Wall Street has gone on a buying spree during the pandemic, as it did during the Great Recession."

In addition, the Joint Office acknowledges the historic and ongoing racial disparities in housing, homeless services and housing placement. According to The Center for American Progress ([CAP](#)), "For centuries, structural racism in the U.S. housing system has contributed to stark and persistent racial disparities in

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Thank you for reading our newsletter. It is important that we continue to recognize the underlying issues that make homelessness so pervasive in our society right now: from structural racism and disparities, to the economic and social impact from COVID-19, to the lack of affordable housing that makes homelessness unavoidable for so many local households.

We would like to hear from you: ideas, feedback, suggestions and connections. Your feedback can help shape our work in the community. Please reply to this newsletter with your ideas for features, things we should include or questions you have for the Joint Office.

Please share this newsletter with your networks and anyone else you know who would like to learn more.

Thank you all for the work you do and your interest in helping our unhoused neighbors get the support they need to get into housing, so that together, we can end homelessness in the Portland metro area and make any household's experience with homelessness temporary, brief and one-time only.

-The Joint Office of Homeless Services

This notice was distributed to those who have [signed up](#) to hear about opportunities to participate and receive updates on the Joint Office of Homeless Services and the local implementation of [Metro's Supportive Housing Measure](#) in Multnomah County. Did you receive this email from someone else and would like to join our mailing list for future updates? [Click here to sign up](#).



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