



Homelessness PDX Connection

Spring 2021



Center receives national research fellowship

The Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) awarded a research fellowship to our center this spring - it's the first time the coalition has named a research center as a fellow.

CUMU is known as the longest-running and largest organization committed to serving and connecting the world's urban and metropolitan universities and their partners. The research fellowship includes six months of collaboration with the coalition, designing and leading CUMU's 2021 Summer Action Summit on addressing housing insecurity and homelessness, identification of research projects and securing support for projects identified.

"This partnership will help us collaborate with universities and researchers around the country to identify how we can better address homelessness, particularly for people of color," said center Director Dr. Marisa Zapata.

[Full Story](#)



Research Talk: Understanding Homelessness

We must determine how to produce the needed housing and services to end homelessness while supporting people who are experiencing homelessness right now. How do we balance the emergency response and long-term planning? Center Director Dr. Marisa Zapata discusses solutions in her talk during Portland State University's Research Week event.



Experts in transportation, homelessness partner

Two national research centers at Portland State University - our center and the Transportation Research and Education Center - have been awarded a new contract from the National Academies of Science to produce "Homelessness: A Guide for Public Transportation." A recent article features the two principal investigators, Dr. Marisa Zapata and John MacArthur, to learn more.

[Read Q&A](#)

Bills on homelessness move

through legislature

The center is tracking about 50 bills that relate to homelessness in the Oregon State Legislature this session, including at least one that has passed: [HB 2006](#) (siting of emergency shelters) and another that looks likely to pass, [HB 3115](#) (provides protection against sit/lie laws). It is unclear how the remaining bills will resolve. Stay up-to-date on these bills using the center's bill tracker below.



[Bills on Homelessness](#)

Centering racial equity in presentations

Below is a list of 8 questions to consider when designing presentations to center on equity, inclusion, and social change. The resource was developed by Ashoka U, a nonprofit that catalyzes and supports social innovation at colleges and universities worldwide. Ashoka U has recognized 51 Changemaker Campuses around the world for excellence in social innovation, including PSU.

[8 Questions](#)



Portland Street Response

Our center is leading the evaluation of the Portland Street Response program, a non-police response to people experiencing homelessness or a mental health crisis. Researchers are working toward a six-month progress report. Check our website for more information and updates.

[Evaluation updates](#)

We're fans of the Mobile Housing Team

The Mobile Housing Team helps approximately 200 families a year exit homelessness into housing thanks to wrap-around supports. It's the type of program slated to expand services to help even more residents exit homelessness through the voter-approved supportive services



measure. [JOIN](#) is the lead agency coordinating the team that includes [Portland Homeless Family Solutions](#), [Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization](#), [Native American Youth and Family](#)

One family's story

Five insights on homelessness around the US

1. **Hotel shelter programs** have had a positive impact on participant health and wellbeing. Municipalities across the country are beginning to acquire hotels and motels to serve as [long term affordable housing](#), often using a combination of federal, state, and local funds.
2. **Housed and unhoused Oaklanders** created [a collection of small cob structures](#) featuring a kitchen, shower and health clinic on publicly-owned CalTrans land. Organizers did not receive approval to use the land, but CalTrans has no immediate plans to remove it.
3. **Washington** became the first state in the nation to pass a civil [Right to Counsel](#), which provides free legal assistance to all low-income tenants facing eviction. The state joins several cities that have already implemented the policy, including New York City and San Francisco.
4. **The Private Equity Stakeholder Project** released [a report](#) on how one of America's major corporate landlords has filed to evict more than 1,300 residents during the pandemic.
5. **A new study** looks at the connection between evictions and health-related behaviors.

Bonus: Shelterforce explores the [history of HUD's tenant organizing fund](#) (514 funding) and why it has barely been used in two decades, with the hope that the Biden administration will reactivate it.

For more national news, insights, and reports on homelessness, sign up for our weekly memo.

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