



Homelessness PDX Connection

Winter 2021



Cost of Oregon evictions could reach \$3.3 billion

A new report from Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative estimates that Oregon might be forced to spend between \$1 billion and \$3.3 billion to respond to mass evictions in the short term if additional eviction supports are not adopted during the pandemic.

Approximately 89,000 Oregon households owe back rent, according to the center's analysis of the Census Household Pulse survey of social and economic impacts of the coronavirus. A previous [study by Dr. Lisa K. Bates](#) shows that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are disproportionately at risk of eviction during the pandemic.

To calculate the statewide cost of evictions, researchers used the Cost of Eviction Calculator developed by University of Arizona College of Law. The complete report includes recommendations including increased rental support to avoid mass evictions and the related downstream costs.

[Read the full report](#)



Portland Street Response

Non-police response to homelessness launches

Portland Street Response is now live in the Lents neighborhood. The program is a non-police response to assist people experiencing houselessness or a behavioral/mental health crisis.

Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative and Research Director Greg Townley conducted [the survey](#) that helped inform the design of the program and is evaluating the program's first year.

To request Portland Street Response in the Lents neighborhood, contact 911 or the non-emergency number at 503-823-3333. For more information about the program go to <https://www.portland.gov/streetresponse>



Survey reveals needs of those living unsheltered

Director Marisa Zapata, the Joint Office of Homeless Services, Shannon Singleton, and Street Roots conducted a survey of people who are living unsheltered to better understand their needs as part of the Local Implementation Plan for the Metro Supportive Housing Services fund.

The results revealed profound racial disparities even in basic answers about who accesses shelter or who pitches tents. More than one in four people of color slept on the streets without a tent compared to only one in 10 people who are white. In addition, people of color were less likely to access shelters.

Overall, human connection including friends, family and even therapists and case managers ranked high among what could make people feel supported. For example, living someplace where friends and family could visit freely was one of the top three most frequently shared needs for housing.

Photo Credit Street Roots

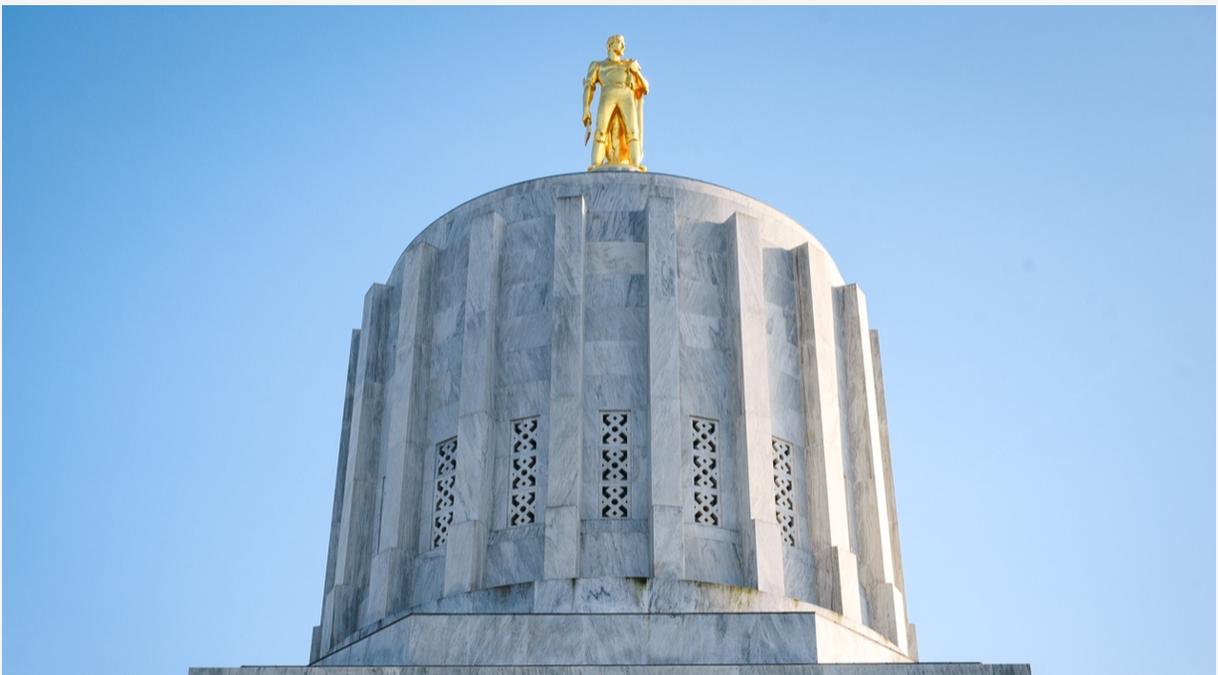
[Read the full report](#)

New rule: Oregon cities must include people experiencing homelessness in housing plans

Oregon cities are now required to develop housing production strategies that, for the first time in the US, include housing options for people experiencing homelessness, according to rules adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission under HB 2003.

Director Marisa Zapata, Assistant Director Jacen Greene, and HRAC partner LaQuida Landford participated in the commission's historic move.

[Learn More](#)



Oregon State Legislature 2021 and homelessness

The center is tracking more than 30 bills that relate to homelessness in the 2021 Oregon State Legislature including bills that would establish a long-term rental assistance program ([HB 2163](#)),

Bills on Homelessness

Five insights on homelessness around the US

1. The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard found [homelessness was on the rise](#) even before the pandemic.
2. A [new report from the University of Southern California](#) looks at how renters in Los Angeles coped with unaffordable housing before the pandemic.
3. [New research](#) shows that eviction and utility shutoff moratoriums slow the spread of COVID.
4. [Fresno, CA](#) is the latest city where tenant advocates are organizing for a Right to Counsel program. The [national movement for a Right to Counsel](#) (RTC) continues to gather momentum as tenants around the country are faced with eviction during the pandemic.
5. [In Austin, TX](#), an arts organization called Art From the Streets is one of several projects that illustrate how creative programs can be a source of financial and emotional support for people experiencing homelessness.

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