

Community Action Directors of Oregon

Legislative Priorities for 2008 & 2009

2008 Legislative Priorities

With the first supplemental February Legislative Session in the history of Oregon on the near horizon, the Community Action Directors of Oregon and NW Public Affairs have identified the following legislative goals to pursue homeless prevention and preservation of affordable housing during the 2008 session:

- 1) Homeless Prevention, Local Incentives -- Creation of capacity grants to assist local community efforts to design and implement "Ten-Year Plans to End Homelessness" throughout Oregon. With the allocation of \$576,000 in one time funding to the Emergency Housing Account (EHA), Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) could establish an incentive-based program to help communities with the creation and implementation of a local homeless strategy. Each participating county would be eligible to apply for up to \$16,000 in grant funding to support local efforts with the collection of data, organization, planning and implementation of a homelessness strategy. As opportunities emerge, it is possible for participating counties to join together and use resources collectively to develop multi-county strategies to end homelessness.

- 2) Homeless Prevention, Statewide Technical Assistance -- To ensure a coordinated approach with local efforts to design homeless strategies, OHCS & EHAC will help set up criterion for establishing technical assistance for local communities. With a one-time allocation of \$174,000 in new funds, through a consultant, OHCS will facilitate regional workshops, provide example plans, offer one-on-one consultations, and other forms of technical assistance and cross-county information sharing to assist local communities with the development of Ten-Year Plans to End Homelessness.

- 3) Preservation of Affordable Housing -- To address the challenge of preservation of expiring use properties, CAPO and NW Public Affairs will support efforts of the Housing Alliance to secure funding for a "Preservation Revolving Loan Fund." With a general fund allocation of \$2 million - \$4 million, this would leverage an additional \$26 to \$46 million in private, philanthropic, and local public funds. By 2013, the total amount leveraged is expected to exceed \$150 million. It would also protect and estimated \$50 million a year in federal rent subsidy payments.

Additionally, as new issues emerge within the legislative session, CAPO will once again work closely to support our allies and their in the fight against poverty.

2009 Legislative Priorities

As we look to collectively build beyond the February 2008 Supplemental Session, CAPO & NW Public Affairs have identified the following legislative goals for 2009:

- 1) Creating a 100% ^{over}CSBG Match for Federal Funds.
- 2) Supporting efforts of the Housing Alliance and advocating within the coalition for the expansion of funding for Emergency Housing Assistance.
- 3) Supporting efforts of the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- 4) Support efforts to increase energy bill payment assistance statewide.

We will use the legislative interim to develop a case for these investments and begin to identify legislative champions.