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MEMORANDUM

March 5, 1999

TO: CADO Members
FROM: Jerry Bieberle
RE: CADO Strategy Status Report

Now that we are about a third of the way through the 1999 Oregon Legislative Session, an update on the progress of the CADO Legislative Agenda is timely.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY HOUSING

GOAL: Seek a \$1,286,970 increase in the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), and a \$2,320,500 increase Emergency Housing Account (EHA).

STATUS: The Governors Recommended Budget maintains both SHAP and EHA at their 1997 funding level. We have used many vehicles to continue to try to bring the needs of increased funding for SHAP and EHA to the fore.

Some of the activities we have conducted since the beginning of the Session includes:

- + I have provided testimony to the Transportation / Economic Development Subcommittee of Ways and Means in support of the HCS budget and the need for additional SHAP and EHA dollars;
- + I visited with a number of legislators (particularly members of the Transportation / Economic Development Subcommittee) about the need for SHAP and EHA funding;
- + During the Housing Lobby day (2/8) participants discussed the need for funding of SHAP and EHA with more than 60 legislators;
- + I met with President Adams' staff re: adding SHAP and EHA dollars to the budget; and,

+ I worked with Sen. Frank Shields to gather signatures from other State Senators on a letter (copy included) urging additional funds for SHAP and EHA. Fifteen Senators signed the letter.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Pressure on the Legislature to increase funding for SHAP and EHA needs to be maintained. Sometime before the final budget decisions are made in May we need to make another major push for SHAP and EHA funding. I'm not sure yet what forms that push will take.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE TRUST FUND:

GOAL: Support the proposal to appropriate \$160 million to the *Housing Trust Fund*.

STATUS: Since the Governor's budget does not allocate any new funds to the Housing Trust Fund, other avenues for achieving funding are being explored. The Housing Lobby Coalition is working on a bill to create a revenue stabilization fund and use the interest from the fund for the development of affordable housing. This bill has been introduced, has not yet been assigned to a committee.

Because funding for the Housing Trust Fund is caught up in the need to fund education and essential state services, the prospects are dimming for funding in 1999. New proposals (such as using tobacco settlement dollars) have been surfacing, but I have not been very impressed with the viability of these new ideas.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE? All of the housing advocate organizations need to keep their eye on the target, IE additional funding for the Housing Trust Fund. Another Housing Lobby Day is being planned for May. This may be our last chance to lobby of Housing Trust Fund dollars in 1999.

STATE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTIONS PROGRAMS:

Goal: Seek state funding support for the expanding obligation Community Action Programs have had to assume to assist Oregon's working poor.

STATUS: Currently I am pursuing two different strategies to try to develop additional support for CAPs.

First, as part of the DHR Ways and Means process I am trying to resurrect the idea of AFS adding \$3 million new TANF dollars for EA / EHA match. Because this effort is just beginning there isn't much to report other than some legislators are interested in helping.

Second, I have been working with HCS and the Governor's staff in the design of the Governor's *Incentive Fund*. I have included a

paper describing concept. Though this fund will not fund services, it has the potential to develop community facilities that could aid CAPs and CDCs in their community development and anti-poverty efforts.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

The HCS budget included \$25 million of lottery backed bonds for the Governor' Incentive Fund, but there is no authorizing legislation. I will continue to work for both the adoptions of the budget, as well as help develop legislation. I will keep you informed as this effort develops and I will let you know how you can help.

ENERGY DEREGULATION:

GOAL: Support the proposal for a meter charge on all electric utilities that will help fund a \$20 million annual energy assistance fund, and a 3% public purpose charge that will result in \$8 million in new low-income weatherization funds.

Though I have been in communication with Tom Schraw on energy deregulation, I do not feel competent to write about the status of his efforts. I can attest however, to how highly impressed I am with his efforts. From my viewpoint Tom's efforts are exceedingly effect, and he has my admiration and support.

FOOD AND NUTRITION:

GOAL: Support the proposal to seek a \$2,000,000 increase in funding for food and nutrition programs, as well as future recommendations to come forward from the Oregon Food Bank and the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force.

STATUS: As it is the case in the housing arena, the Governors Recommended Budget contains no increases and maintains the food and nutrition programs at their 1997 funding level.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

Similar to the effort to increase SHAP and EHA, the pressure on the Legislature to increase funding for food and nutrition programs needs to be maintained. Sometime before the final budget decisions are made in May we need to make another major push for funding. I'm not sure yet what forms that push will take

Competition for state funding will great, and this means each CAP needs to be even more diligent in making sure that their legislators understand how important they are to their communities well being.

I realize that this report only touches on some of the high points of our efforts. If you have any questions, or if you need additional information, I urge you to contact me in Salem at 503/378-9800.