

A Home for Everyone Coordinating Board:

Shared Oversight for Our United Community Plan to End Homelessness for Portland/Multnomah County

Homelessness is a crisis, but it can be solved. Doing so requires an urgent, united response. In June 2014, the Cities of Portland and Gresham, Multnomah County, and our local housing authority (Home Forward) will charter a new advisory body, the *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board, to create shared oversight of our community's work to end homelessness.

How we got here

- Over the past nine years, our community has come together in unprecedented ways to respond to homelessness. The *Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness* was launched in December 2004. It established ambitious goals, improved service delivery and targeted investments and partnerships across public, private and nonprofit sectors.
- Facing new and on-going challenges, such as the lagging economy and tight rental market, opportunities such as those presented by the Affordable Care Act, and the need to align with new federal funding opportunities and mandates, we recognized that we needed a renewed vision that built on our past success and refocused our direction and investments for the next five years and beyond.
- In 2013, a Reset Committee, as it was known, was convened by the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Home Forward, bringing together diverse stakeholders to review data, listen to the community and learn from effective practices, locally and nationally. Together, they created [*A Home for Everyone: A United Community Plan to End Homelessness in Multnomah County.*](#)
- One of the primary action items in that plan was development of a broadly representative advisory body to coordinate and oversee the work of the plan.

What you told us

Through extensive outreach during and following the “Reset” process, we engaged a diverse set of community stakeholders to better understand what you wanted from shared oversight of our community's response to homelessness. You told us that shared oversight should:

- Improve transparency and inclusiveness, with broad stakeholder representation.
- Foster a shared understanding of need and recommend effective responses and priorities for investment.
- Promote shared responsibility and accountability for: a) making policy recommendations to local government and funders; b) reviewing and developing strategies to align and maximize the effectiveness of resources; and c) overseeing coordination of local efforts with state and federal policies.
- Achieve equity for communities of color disproportionately affected by homelessness.
- Increase coordination of decision-making and efficiency of service delivery.
- Comply fully with federal regulations requiring community oversight of federal resources dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness.

What we've planned

Based on what we heard from you, we are working to establish the *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board. The board will be led by an Executive Committee comprised of:

- the Mayor of Portland and the Portland Housing Commissioner
- the Multnomah County Chair and a County Commissioner
- the Mayor of Gresham or a designated member of the Gresham City Council
- the Executive Director of Home Forward or a member of its Board of Directors
- a representative of a private funder jointly appointed by the Mayor of Portland and the Multnomah County Chair

The Executive Committee will appoint the remainder of the *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board, which must include representatives of community stakeholders from multiple sectors:

- Providers of nonprofit homeless assistance, domestic violence victim services, and culturally-specific services providers
- Faith-based organizations
- Businesses and workforce development organizations
- Homeless and formerly homeless individuals and their advocates
- School districts and universities
- Social service, health care and behavioral health providers
- Affordable housing developers
- Law enforcement and criminal justice
- Organizations that serve veterans
- Oregon Department of Human Services self-sufficiency and foster care programs

The *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board will:

- Annually assess needs for housing and homeless services and recommend prioritization of gaps in services to be filled with existing resources and/or resource development.
- Annually review homeless system budgets and recommend funding scenarios.
- Directly make policy and funding decisions related to HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds.
- Develop and adopt *A Home for Everyone* Action Plan and associated annual updates.
- Approve all portions of the regional HUD Consolidated Plan and associated Annual Action Plans that specifically relate to the use of CoC and ESG funds.
- Approve annual CoC application, including its strategic plan goals and project ranking.

What happens next

- In June 2014, the Portland and Gresham City Councils, Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, and Home Forward Board of Directors will review for approval a [detailed charter](#) and associated intergovernmental agreement to establish the *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board.
- Community stakeholders will be able to nominate members for the *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board before it is convened early this summer, and all meetings of the *Home for Everyone* Coordinating Board and its Executive Committee will be public.

If you have questions or want to contribute more to the conversation, contact Ryan Deibert at the Portland Housing Bureau (ryan.deibert@portlandoregon.gov).