

January 20, 2015

Dear Commissioner Saltzman, Director Creager and PHAC members:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network's Portland Policy Council to request additional dedicated funds within PHB's budget decision packages. While we realize the budget decision package process is well underway, we cannot create complete and equitable neighborhoods without additional homeownership investment.

Oregon Opportunity Network's Portland Policy Council voted at their January meeting to request a minimum of \$2 million in additional funding for homeownership based on a potential \$40 million in PHB decision packages. This funding would be used for creating new homeowners, whether through downpayment assistance or single-family development.

As providers working to provide stability and opportunity across the housing continuum, Oregon ON understands that homeownership provides the ultimate stability for families and that often, when a family achieves homeownership, this frees up an affordable rental unit in which a new family can begin their journey to stability and, hopefully, homeownership.

The City must provide additional investment in homeownership, particularly for families and people of color, in order to realize these success stories. We know the need is dire across the entire continuum, but we urge you to include homeownership development as a priority in this budget.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for all your work on behalf of housing opportunity!

Sincerely,



Ruth Adkins
Policy Director