



315 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 900
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-416-4100 or 800-224-4840
800-735-2900 (TTY/TDD)
www.careoregon.org

May 18, 2017

Bond Stakeholders Advisory Group
Portland Housing Bureau
421 SW 6th Ave, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97204

To the members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group:

CareOregon would like to express support for increasing the availability of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) in our region. We believe this commitment is critically important to the health and well-being of area residents and the community as a whole.

CareOregon serves approximately 140,000 Medicare and Medicaid members in the metro region. The Population Health Department addresses the social determinants of health, providing healthcare navigation and support to our most vulnerable members. Our staff members work frequently with individuals who are homeless or living in unstable housing situations, and who are experiencing chronic and complex health conditions. A significant number of these individuals need Permanent Supportive Housing in order to remain stably housed and obtain the healthcare they need.

CareOregon participates in the A Home For Everyone Health workgroup, which identified increasing PSH as a top priority. A subset of that workgroup met to examine the projected need for PSH units, and determined that Multnomah County would need over 1,700 units to meet the current demand. We appreciate the hard work this committee is doing and hope you will prioritize increasing PSH units in your planning.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ramsay
Executive Director, Population Health Partnerships