



IMPACT NW

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

2024 strategy

OUR MANIFESTO

The overwhelming cost of housing in the Portland region leaves too many people with little choice but to camp outside, double up in cramped apartments or take other drastic measures. For sure, behavioral health compounds the problem. But the cost of housing is the driver of this humanitarian crisis that hurts all of us.

Impact NW has a solution. We stop homelessness before it even starts – by supporting people so they keep their housing and by advocating for public policy that fixes our broken housing system.

But our solution is hampered in a big way. The problem is the way our government partners work with us. We deeply value our government partners, who contract with us and other nonprofits to provide much-needed social services. It's great that we live in a community that takes funding a social safety net seriously. The problem is, those contracts do not yet provide housing wages for our staff.

Before we solve the housing crisis, we need to solve the housing wage deficit. So, here's the core of our potent solution: reform how government supports nonprofits (like Impact NW) and build a system that houses everyone. Our vision is pragmatic, humanitarian and sustainable. It's anchored in our belief that **EVERYONE** deserves a beautiful life.



CURRENT SITUATION

6,297

Number of people homeless in the Portland metro area

65%

Increase in Portland area homelessness since 2015

50%

How many Portland renters are rent burdened

-109,682

Number of affordable rental units in Oregon compared to need



WHAT IS HOUSING



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

At Impact NW, we define housing as meeting these criteria as defined by the United Nations Office of Human Rights.

Security of Tenure

Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.

Availability of Services

Including materials, facilities and infrastructure.
Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage or refuse disposal.

Affordability

Housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights.

Habitability

Housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards.

Accessibility

Housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not taken into account.

Location

Housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centers and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas.

Cultural Adequacy

Housing is not adequate if it does not respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.

OUR APPROACH

Our comprehensive approach to Homelessness Prevention leverages our values, near and long-term solutions, as well as partnerships to end the homelessness crisis.

Values & Beliefs

At our core, the values and beliefs we lead with every day drive our work to end the homelessness crisis.

Inspiration & Partnership

We walk alongside many people and partners everyday as we work together to prevent homelessness.



Near-Term Solutions






Improve life for the most people in the shortest amount of time.

Long-Term Solutions

Our focus remains changing the housing system while prioritizing housing plus services and stabilizing non-profit organizations.

OUR VALUES & BELIEFS

The values and beliefs we hold inform our approach to this work and propel our organization and our work in ending the homelessness crisis. We believe that:

-  Housing is a human right. Everyone should be able to live in a neighborhood that is safe and convenient for them.
-  Housing plus supportive services is a proven approach that prioritizes maintaining and obtaining unconditional stable housing, empowering people to pursue personal goals, access connected services, and immediately improve quality of life.
-  Housing plus services includes access to behavioral health and addiction services, which can be critical to prevent homelessness.
-  Services alone will not solve the housing crisis, the dismantling and rebuilding of systems that oppress people is paramount.
-  All solutions must be trauma-informed and human centered and reflect the desires of the people who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.

NEAR-TERM SOLUTIONS

Impact NW advocates for the following near-term solutions to the homelessness crisis to improve life for the most people in the shortest amount of time. The services we provide prioritize prevention and advocacy. We support services provided by others. But we first must enact a critical **policy** change.

LONG-TERM RENT SUPPORT

Vouchers and other means of subsidizing housing costs are effective ways to help people secure and maintain housing.

ACCESS VACANT APARTMENTS

Use rent support, landlord coordination and wraparound services to quickly move people into existing, vacant units.

KEEP PEOPLE AT-RISK IN HOUSING

Work upstream to provide resources and support to people at risk of losing their housing.

TEMPORARY SHELTER

Along with sanctioned camping or villages, temporary solutions must provide pathways to behavioral health treatment and permanent housing.

PURCHASE PROPERTIES

Motels and other properties are available now that provide move-in or nearly-move-in housing units.

PROVIDE HOUSING WAGES

Reform how government contracts with nonprofits to pay front-line workers a housing wage.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Impact NW advocates for the below long-term solutions to our homelessness crisis. The services we provide support people facing housing challenges before it's too late. We also support services provided by others. But we first must enact a critical **policy** change.

WORK UPSTREAM

Support people at risk of homelessness with early intervention to build experiences, skills and assets that help them realize their goals, especially children.

MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Make housing available for a range of people and ensure that screening doesn't further racial disparities

CREATE SYSTEM WIDE COORDINATION

Bring together government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders to create a system that is aligned in tackling the crisis.

INCREASE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Increase and coordinate access to provide timely and effective treatment.

STABILIZE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Reform how government contracts with non-profits to deliver on the services that are relied on to address our communities' needs.

INSPIRATION

Impact NW's Homelessness Prevention Strategy has many inspirations, most of all the people we walk alongside everyday as we work to prevent homelessness. We'd also like to recognize the inspiration of:



United States
Interagency Council
on Homelessness
*Preventing and Ending
Homelessness in the United States*

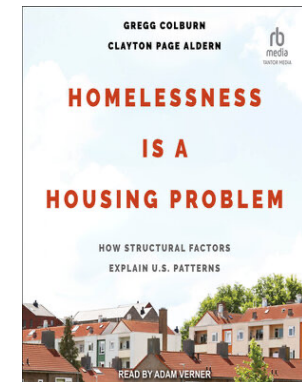


National Low Income
Housing Coalition



Portland State
UNIVERSITY

Homelessness Research &
Action Collaborative



CALL TO ACTION



Public officials

Reform nonprofit contracting and create the system that houses everyone and provides the supportive services they need and want.



Non-profit sector

Work together to advocate for policy change and practices that prioritize contract modernization and housing plus services.



Business community

Invest in the workforce and pay a housing wage.



Community members

Engage in informed conversations about housing and homelessness, advocate, and vote to support housing solutions.

JOIN US!



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