



*Housing Oregon
Board members:*

*Sheila Stiley, Board
chair – NW Coastal
Housing*

*Diane Linn, Vice-
chair - Proud Ground*

*Travis Phillips,
Secretary –Catholic
Charities of Oregon*

*Trell Anderson,
Treasurer –NW
Housing Alternatives*

*Wakan Alferes
Homes for Good*

*Rachael Duke -
Community Partners
for Affordable
Housing*

*Ernesto Fonseca -
Hacienda CDC*

*Maria Elena Guerra -
Farmworker Housing
Development Corp*

*Garrick Harmel –
Casa of Oregon*

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

*Kymerly Horner -
Portland Community
Reinvestment Inc.*

*Foster Martinez – St.
Vincent de Paul Lane
County*

*Richard Morrow –
Columbia Cascade
Housing Corp.*

*Kristy Rodriguez –
Housing Authority of
Malheur & Harney
Counties*

March 5, 2021

Chair Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Commission
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 600
Portland, OR 97214-3587

Dear Chair Kafoury and Commissioners:

Housing Oregon is reaching out to the Multnomah County elected officials and Public Health Department to help ensure residents of low-income affordable housing communities are educated and ready to sign-up for COVID vaccinations when they are eligible.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing providers and Community Development Corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner.

Our member organizations provide housing for many Oregonians currently or soon to be eligible for the vaccine including seniors, BIPOC communities, frontline workers, and people with disabilities and others with underlying health conditions. These populations are disproportionately represented in many of our members' apartment communities.

Representatives with the state and Providence Health & Services recently joined one of our policy committees and recognized the opportunity to coordinate with local health departments to reach these vulnerable constituencies. Based on their advice we are surveying our members to identify percentages of tenants from these more vulnerable population groups and mapping multi-family housing by county in case that helps with siting future vaccination clinics.

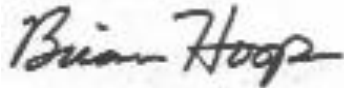
Some of our members have Resident Services staff who may be able to help distribute educational information about decreasing vaccine hesitancy, show residents how to sign-up for notification through OHA and scheduling appointments, coordinate transportation to nearby

clinics, or assist with mobile on-site clinics, especially for those with mobility issues.

We recognize public health agency staff are stretched thin across the State. We extend this offer recognizing some of our members may be in a unique position to help connect those disproportionately affected by the COVID pandemic with your efforts to engage hard-to-reach constituencies.

We look forward to being connected with appropriate staff. Please contact Brian Hoop, Executive Director with Housing Oregon, at 503-475-6056 or brian@housingoregon.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon

CC:

- Jessica Guernsey, MPH Director, Public Health Multnomah County Public Health Administrator
- Ebony Sloan Clarke, LCSW, MSW Interim Director, Health Department
- Kim Toevs, MPH Director, Communicable Disease, Harm Reduction, Youth Sexual Health Equity Programs
- Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH Health Officer Multnomah County, Oregon Tri-County Health Officer, Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington Counties