



Annual Report 2020

Housing Oregon

Already a third of the way through 2021, Housing Oregon continues to respond to the multiple crises of 2020 with a focus on advocating for affordable housing that is safe, healthy and accessible for all. We're now helping connect Resident Service staff and public health agencies to ensure residents get COVID vaccinations. Our legislative priority - Mortgage Interest Deduction reform - has received three public hearings during the 2021 session. But our focus here is to look back at 2020.

Response to the pandemic

2020 started out with a legislative session cut short during which we were able to provide [testimony in support of](#) the Task Force Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership. Priorities shifted in March as Housing Oregon was one of the first organizations to [engage with elected officials](#), the [Governor's office](#), and [Legislature](#) on the need for a moratorium on evictions for rentals and homeownership foreclosure.

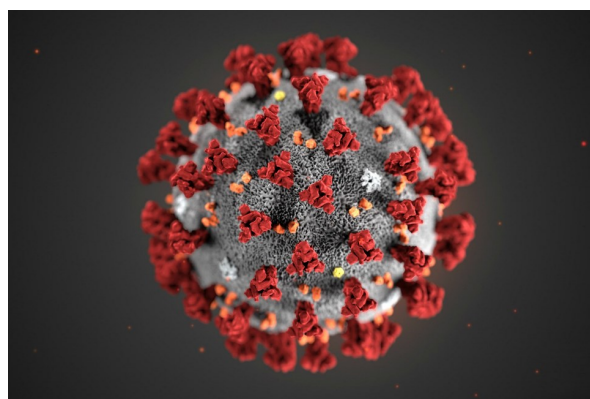
We had a [lead role with securing](#) early in the pandemic a \$20 million allocation for rent arrearages from OHCS for nonprofit CDCs. We also helped advocate early on for [relief from the US Treasury](#) by extending deadlines for tax credit programs, organized an April 2020 workshop led by Heritage Bank to help our members better understand how to apply for PPP loans, and helped secure funding from OHCS to help your organizations navigate the technological challenges you were facing with transitioning to remote workplaces.

Housing Oregon worked closely with the Housing Alliance through three [summer](#) and [winter](#) special sessions securing \$250 million for rental assistance and extending the moratorium thru the spring of 2021 to ensure low-income Oregonians would have stable housing through the pandemic.

Racial justice and Wildfires

The Black Lives Matter movement renewed our nation's call for racial justice in 2020 highlighting the widespread inequities communities of color face accessing quality health care, education, affordable and safe housing, and building generational wealth. At the invitation of Metro's construction bond program, we organized a member panel in February 2020 on model equity work in contracting, community engagement and partnerships with culturally specific organizations.

The 2020 wildfire season in Oregon destroyed more than 5,000 homes across eight counties. [Housing Oregon has been active](#) in efforts to connect member organizations with State and Federal officials through our Rural Policy Council and having representation on the Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force. Members met with State officials to help shape development of strategies for the [draft Recovery Action Plan](#) advocating to ensure outreach efforts connect with culturally specific organizations and lower-income residents of manufactured housing parks.



Rural Policy Council up and running

The Rural Policy Council got off the ground in May 2020 with an eye on examining the LIFT program to ensure it is serving BIPOC and rural communities as originally intended. We provided [testimony to the Housing Stability Council](#) advocating to ensure developer fees are being re-invested in Oregon, into resident services, building the capacity of Oregon-based nonprofit housing developers and supporting racial equity.

Housing Oregon and the Portland Metro Policy Council helped mobilize our members in the HereTogether Coalition campaign to pass the Metro Supportive Housing Services levy last May 2020 securing up to \$2 billion over the next ten years providing much-needed wraparound services to help reduce homelessness across greater Portland. In the following months, Council members provided input on goals for Metro's Oversight Committee as well as the [design of Local Implementation Plans](#) for the tri-county governments.

Thanks to Maria Elena Guerra, Executive Director of Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, and Peter Hainley, Executive Director of Casa of Oregon for co-chairing the Rural Policy Council. Likewise, thanks to Mercedes Elizalde, Public Policy Director at Central City Concern, and Travis Phillips, Director of Community Development and Housing at Catholic Charities of Oregon for co-chairing the Portland Metro Policy Council.

Peer groups

The Resident Services Peer Group is up and running again holding four sessions last year addressing outreach efforts to sign up residents for the [US Census](#), isolation of seniors and people with disabilities and creative strategies for summertime youth activities during the COVID pandemic. Welcome back Rosanne Marmor, LCSW, who has returned to facilitate the peer group in 2021.

Thanks to generous support from Jones & Roth CPAs and Business Advisors, the Fiscal Managers Peer Group held several sessions in 2021 addressing [GAAP accounting procedures](#), the [Construction Activity Tax](#), and the COVID related [Payroll Protection Program](#). Please let me know if you have finance staff interested in joining as we look to re-grow this group in 2021.

Thanks to Trell Anderson, Executive Director of NW Housing Alternatives, for initiating an Executive Directors' monthly check-in and to Travis Phillips who was organizing a Housing Developers networking group that is paused during the COVID crisis.

Industry Support Conference

The [Housing Oregon 2020 conference](#) went virtual and was a big success with 680 participants. We collaborated with the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA) and nine other peer state associations. Our [program guide](#) outlined over 40 sessions including keynotes with Congressman Earl Blumenauer and OHCS director Margaret Salazar. Workshops addressed topics such as health care and housing partnerships, the Community Reinvestment Act, emergency preparedness, and much more.

SAVE THE DATE! October 4-8, 2021

The 2021 Industry Support Conference will again be a virtual gathering in collaboration with our national partners due to the ongoing COVID pandemic. Information coming soon to solicit workshop proposals, leadership award nominations and sponsorship opportunities.



Rep. Earl Blumenauer (OR)

Building a strong statewide affordable housing support network

The following leaders were elected as new Housing Oregon board members this year:

- Wakan Alferes, Supportive Housing Division Director, Homes for Good
- Maria Elena Guerra, Exec. Director, Farmworker Housing Develop. Corp.
- Garrick Harmel, Real Estate and Cooperative Development Director, Casa of Oregon
- Kymberly Horner, Executive Director, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
- Foster Martinez, Supportive Housing Program Director, St. Vincent de Paul Lane County
- Kristy Rodriguez, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Malheur & Harney Counties
- Brian Shelton-Kelley, Director of Acquisitions & Development, NeighborWorks Umpqua



Wakan Alferes



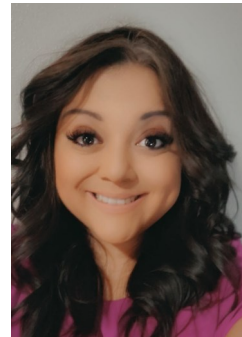
Maria Elena Guerra



Brian Shelton-Kelley



Kymberly Horner



Kristy Rodriguez

Your Program and Policy Priorities

Thank you to the 40 Housing Oregon member organizations who responded to our survey this past winter to help identify program and policy priorities that are important to you. The top five are below. The Board identified these and other ideas at a retreat in 2020 and will continue to refine priorities in the coming year.

- **Championing nonprofit sector role in housing development:** Organize community education and coalition building campaign promoting role of nonprofit affordable housing CDC sector along with research and advocacy with government funding agencies.
- **Equity and racial justice capacity building:** Fostering authentic working partnerships between member organizations and culturally specific organizations, expanding MWESB contracting and diversification of construction trade labor - especially with rural member organizations, for example.
- **Rural capacity building initiatives:** Collaborate with rural industry support programs to build our rural-based member organizational and development capacity to more effectively compete for resources, develop more diverse board leadership, staffing and working partnerships with culturally specific organizations.
- **Training/apprenticeship program to develop future industry leadership:** Develop year-long apprenticeship training and placement program to help prepare a new more diverse generation of leadership for the affordable housing industry such as Housing Oregon's former LEAD ON program.
- **Expanding BIPOC homeownership and new revenue source:** Work with Partners for Affordable Homeownership and the State legislative Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership Task Force to expand BIPOC homeownership rates across Oregon. Advocate for Mortgage Interest Deduction reform.

On behalf of the Board, we appreciate your continued financial support and participation in Housing Oregon. Please feel free to reach out to either of us with any program ideas or questions. Contact Brian at 503-475-6056 or brian@housingoregon.org and/or Sheila at 541-574-0320 or nwcoastalhousing@gmail.com.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoop".

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Stiley".

Sheila Stiley
Board Chair, Housing Oregon
Executive Director, NW Coastal Housing

***Thank you to the following for their financial support
with Housing Oregon in 2020.***



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