

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) seeks the community input on how to address housing needs in Oregon**

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is developing our federally required Consolidated Plan, a five year look at how to address housing needs in Oregon. The Consolidated Plan is the strategic look at how to address the housing needs and invest in services that support persons experiencing homelessness. The agency needs community input and advice to determine how we can do better in serving Oregonians with the lowest incomes.

“OHCS is committed to the idea that all Oregonians have the opportunity to pursue prosperity and live free from poverty,” said Margaret Van Vliet, OHCS Director, “We are eager to hear from people across Oregon to learn more about the local housing conditions, and gathering input about our priorities for the next five years.”

People throughout the state are struggling to pay rent, and home ownership is out of reach for many. In most communities in Oregon, a minimum wage earner must work over 70 hours a week to pay for a two bedroom apartment and still have money left over for food and other basic necessities.

To hear about the challenges facing the residents of Oregon, OHCS is hosting several public events in communities across the state.

Screenings of American Winter followed by a community discussion will be at the following locations:

Location	Date	Time	Address
Tillamook	<b>Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Tillamook Bay Community College Room, 214 4301 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.
The Dalles	<b>Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Mid Columbia Senior Center, 1112 W 9 <sup>th</sup> St.
Klamath Falls	<b>Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Location to be announced



Panel discussions with community leaders will be held at the following locations:

Location	Date	Time	Address	Panelists
Medford	<b>Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	Access Olsrud Nutrition Center, 2020 Cardinal Ave	Scott Foster, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Jackson County; Linda Reid, City of Ashland; Rita Sullivan, Executive Director, On Track
North Bend/ Coos Bay	<b>Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	North Bend Public Library, 1800 Sherman Ave	Panel discussion on affordable housing, moderated by Michael Lehman, Executive Director, Oregon Coast Community Action
McMinnville	<b>Wednesday, April, 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	McMinnville Civic Hall 200 NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	Marilyn Miller, OHCS; Lee Means, Yamhill Community Action Partnership; Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner; Elise Hui, Housing Authority of Yamhill County; Rick Middleton, Yamhill County Gospel Mission; Moderated by McMinnville City Manager, Martha Meeker

Another way to provide input in the planning effort is to participate in the on line community surveys in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

For more information about these events and the consolidated plan please visit:  
<http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/pages/consolidated-plan-five-year-plan.aspx>.

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*American Winter* is an award winning documentary following the lives of 8 Oregonian families who called into the 211 social services hotline in search of help during the winter of 2012. The film presents an intimate snapshot of the state of the nation's economy as it is playing out in the lives of many American families, and reveals the human consequences of rising economic insecurity, budget cuts to the social safety net, and the fracturing of the American Dream.

