

## The homeless crisis in the Portland metro region demands our attention.

Thousands of our neighbors – veterans, seniors, women and children escaping domestic violence, and people with chronic illnesses – are living everyday without a safe, stable place to sleep at night. Many are experiencing homelessness for the first time.

We cannot ignore what is happening all around us. Homelessness is not a choice. As our region's booming economy and quality of life continues to grow, so has our population and the cost of housing. As a result, thousands of families are living on the brink of homelessness because their rent is far outpacing their income.

### It's time to unite for a real solution.

We can't wait any longer for federal or state governments to solve homelessness in the Portland metro region. When longtime residents, aging seniors, and essential service workers like teachers and nursing aides can't afford to live here, we risk losing what makes our region so special.



**Oregon ranks #1 in the nation for unsheltered families with children.**



**56,000+ households are at risk of homelessness in the Portland metro region due to rising housing costs**



**Clackamas County experienced a 35% rise in homeless children from 2015-2017**



**Washington County experienced a 25% jump in homelessness among those with mental health challenges in one year**



**8,000 students in Portland metro region schools experienced homelessness in 2017**

## HereTogether is forging a new path.

HereTogether is a coalition of service providers, business leaders, elected officials, philanthropists, and advocates who believe homelessness in the Portland Metro region is a solvable problem. By uniting community leaders and experts, we are building a region-wide response to homelessness that targets the roots of the problem with solutions that can match the scale and scope of the crisis.

There are proven strategies and best practices that help people and families impacted by homelessness transition to stable living. Successful programs increase access to affordable homes, prevent seniors living on Social Security from falling through the cracks, increase income for homeless adults, and connect people with wrap-around services that help them get back on their feet. We are engaging the community to better align our efforts, maximize our impact, and elevate full-scale solutions throughout the greater Portland metro region.

## 3 Ways to Get Involved



### Stay connected with HereTogether.

Visit [www.HereTogetherOregon.org](http://www.HereTogetherOregon.org) to sign up for email updates and text alerts.



### Add your voice to the discussion.

Follow @HereTogetherOR on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



### Share with your friends.

We cannot advance solutions for homelessness unless we all come together. Share our content on social media and encourage your friends to join us.



- **Metro-area voters have approved 3 affordable housing-related ballot measures since 2016.**
- **More than 35,000 people have received housing or services, including nearly 6,000 who were helped off the streets.**
- **Housing with supportive services is a good investment: \$59 - \$64 per night compared to**
  - \$500 emergency room visit
  - \$210 night in jail
  - \$888 night in the state hospital

#### SOURCES:

U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development • Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division • ECONorthwest, Homelessness in the Portland Region (2018) • Corporation for Supportive Housing, Tri-County Equitable Housing Strategy (2019) • Multnomah County, [www.multco.us](http://www.multco.us) • Clackamas County, [www.clackamas.us](http://www.clackamas.us) • Washington County, [www.co.washington.or.us](http://www.co.washington.or.us)