

# Clackamas County Values on Housing and Shelter **DRAFT**



4 / 12 / 2022

Clackamas County keenly focuses on the well-being of all our families and communities. Continual investments made in affordable housing and sheltering, and providing supportive services to those in need, are key to keeping our communities safe, healthy and prosperous.

Lifting people out of homelessness, expanding access to affordable housing, and maximizing service impacts are critical to an overarching goal of the Board of County Commissioners: to alleviate poverty and ensure the safety, health, and security of our residents. Clackamas County has identified the following values to guide housing-related programs.

## **Lasting and effective programs and services:** Clackamas County and its service providers should...

- Focus on making homelessness and housing instability rare, short term and not reoccurring
- Ensure housing options are safe, stable, and provide choice to meet the needs of each individual
- Create housing opportunities across the geographic area of Clackamas County
- Prioritize placing individuals and families in high-opportunity neighborhoods and sites with access to resources, such as transit, jobs, quality schools, commercial services, and parks
- Develop partnerships that lead residents to a path of sustainability, self-sufficiency and housing retention using person-centered, trauma-informed service approaches

## **Equitable housing solutions and housing access:** Clackamas County and its service providers should...

- Center racial equity and incorporate culturally-responsive practices into service delivery
- Use culturally-specific organizations with competencies to provide services to historically marginalized communities
- Ensure that staff and volunteers have the knowledge and experience to effect an increase in equity and decrease housing disparities
- Increase affordable housing in areas with existing underserved diverse populations throughout Clackamas County

## **Robust community engagement:** Clackamas County and its service providers should...

- Inform decisions and plans through inclusive and accessible public outreach strategies
- Solicit feedback from residents and partners across a variety of channels and methods
- Recognize existing barriers to public participation and take steps to remove them, especially in the case of historically marginalized communities
- Ensure information is thorough, understandable and available