



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 24-03**

**MODIFYING THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO IMPLEMENT EXECUTIVE ORDER 23-03; REPEALING AND REPLACING EXECUTIVE ORDER 22-21**

**PURSUANT TO MY AUTHORITY AS THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OREGON, I FIND THAT:**

**WHEREAS**, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness statewide increased by forty four percent between 2017 and 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, an estimated 20,100 individuals were experiencing homelessness according to the 2023 Point in Time Count conducted in January of that year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Point in Time Count is an underestimate of the number of people experiencing homelessness and the number of people experiencing homelessness in the state is likely higher; and

**WHEREAS**, Black, Indigenous, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander persons are overrepresented in Oregon's homeless population compared to their overall proportion of the state's population, indicating that racial disparities in homelessness are a direct result of structural racism and public systems designed to perpetuate inequity; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon is one of only five states in the nation where people are most likely to experience unsheltered homelessness, and where specific populations such as families with children, veterans, and people with disabling conditions are experiencing homelessness at increasing rates; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, Executive Order No. 22-21 established the Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness ("ICH") with the goal of intentional, statewide systems transformation through the improvement and alignment of state programs, funding, and policies to drive progress toward preventing and ending homelessness statewide and to transform and improve state support for communities and people experiencing homelessness across the state; and



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**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2023, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 23-02, which declared a homelessness state of emergency in specific geographies of the state, and reflects a targeted approach to reduce unsheltered homelessness in areas with recent and rapid increases in unsheltered homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 10, 2023, the Governor also issued Executive Order No. 23-03, which directed state agencies to prioritize reducing both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness in all areas of the state and reflects a statewide systemic effort to reduce and prevent homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2023, state agencies in implementing EO 23-03 provided the Governor's Office with initial information on homelessness-related programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's Office evaluated 91 programs administered by 17 different state agencies to understand opportunities to further reduce and prevent homelessness within the State of Oregon's policy and budgetary framework; and

**WHEREAS**, initial findings from program evaluation identified the need for the State of Oregon to set and achieve statewide equitable outcomes that reduce homelessness and advance racial equity by: improving program administration of core programs and services, aligning and coordinating programs across state agencies, ensuring state investments effectively achieve those equitable outcomes, reducing barriers for service providers in administering state funding and services, and improving housing outcomes for people exiting state systems of care; and

**WHEREAS**, the State has historically made one-time investments through a series of grants administered by separate agencies through various programs to serve people experiencing homelessness which has resulted in a fragmented homeless service delivery system; and

**WHEREAS**, the State has recently increased investments to address homelessness and has identified the need for an outcome oriented and coordinated statewide homeless services system; and

**WHEREAS**, there is not a clear understanding of the demographics and needs of people at greatest risk of entering homelessness and whether state programs among the 91 evaluated are effectively preventing homelessness for these populations; and



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**WHEREAS**, people living in Oregon often navigate complicated pathways to obtaining services needed to establish housing stability; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness is disproportionately more likely to affect Black, Indigenous and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander people and few existing state programs are tailored to address the needs of these specific populations; and

**WHEREAS**, culturally-specific or population-specific services are not easily accessible in all parts of the State where people of color, older adults, youth, or formerly incarcerated persons experience housing instability; and

**WHEREAS**, data collection is necessary to inform statewide goals and equitable outcomes to drive decision-making and advance accountability of State investments; and

**WHEREAS**, service providers offering homeless services experience barriers and challenges in obtaining State funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of coordination and alignment amongst state agencies administering funding for homeless services or directly administering homeless services may lead to redundancies and gaps in the use of State resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the State must improve its programs and policies to more effectively reduce and prevent homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, modifying the Interagency Council on Homelessness established in EO 22-21 with clear direction to achieve the objectives identified through the implementation of EO 23-03 will improve the State's homeless service system to more effectively prevent and reduce homelessness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:**

1. The State shall achieve the following objectives to build, strengthen, and improve the State's homeless services systems:



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- i. **Define statewide outcomes and goals that drive program implementation:** Establish statewide equitable outcomes and goals to reduce homelessness and drive decision-making on program development and prioritization of funding across the state enterprise.
- ii. **Strengthen programs providing services to people experiencing homelessness across the enterprise:** Align and strengthen existing programs providing services to unhoused people or people at risk of homelessness to the greatest extent possible to strengthen the homelessness to housing service continuum in the state and reduce unnecessary program duplication. Work with state and local partners to improve local and regional coordination of programs and funding leading to better housing outcomes for individuals interacting with different levels of government.
- iii. **Advance racial equity and share progress towards equitable goals:** Improve transparency about what the homelessness system looks like statewide and inform any future efforts to expand the system in a way that increases geographic equity in service availability, reduces racial disparities, and advances more equitable outcomes for Black, Indigenous, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander persons, and people of color, people with disabilities, youth, LBTQIA+ people, older adults, and historically and currently underserved people.
- iv. **Reduce barriers for service providers:** Improve the administration of homeless service programs to reduce unnecessary barriers for service providers, increase the efficiency of state program administrators, and improve the experience of people experiencing homelessness who are accessing resources. Focus on building the capacity of and addressing challenges for culturally-specific service providers by creating a more inclusive process for accessing state resources.
- v. **Evaluate programs and improve transparency:** Improve data systems to allow the state to understand and transparently communicate the impact of state investments on individual housing outcomes and support continuous program improvement to address a changing at-risk or unhoused population.



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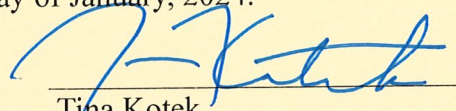
- vi. **Improve how people exiting state institutional settings and systems of care access the housing continuum:** Expand housing choices and strengthen the effectiveness of navigation services for people transitioning out of state institutional settings and systems of care.
  - vii. **Coordinate across agencies:** Improve alignment of programs and policies across all state agencies, especially between the homelessness system and the human services, health care and behavioral health systems to ensure people experiencing homelessness are more effectively connected to services for which they are eligible.
2. The Interagency Council on Homelessness (“ICH”) is modified to address and implement the objectives of Executive Order No. 23-03 described in subsection 1 above.
  3. The original membership of the ICH is expanded to include the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). The ICH shall consist of:
    - i. The Governor, or her designee;
    - ii. Directors of:
      - i. Oregon Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS);
      - ii. Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS);
      - iii. Oregon Health Authority (OHA);
      - iv. Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs (ODVA);
      - v. Oregon Department of Education (ODE);
      - vi. Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC);
      - vii. Oregon Youth Authority (OYA);
      - viii. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT);
      - ix. Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS);
      - x. Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM); and
      - xi. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).
  4. Additional State agencies may be identified as necessary participants by the Governor.
  5. The Governor, or her designee, will chair the Council.
  6. The Director of OHCS will act as vice-chair.
  7. Staffing for the ICH will be led by the Governor’s Office, DAS, and OHCS. All member agencies and any other agencies designated by the Governor’s Office will provide necessary support to advance the work of the ICH.

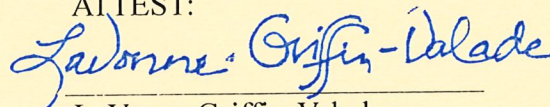


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8. The ICH may create work groups with additional agencies and agency staff to advance the objectives of Executive Order 23-03.
9. The ICH shall by:
  - i. April 1, 2024: Develop a proposed scope of work to achieve the objectives outlined herein for the Governor's consideration;
  - ii. May 1, 2024: Begin implementation of a 2024 annual work plan as decided and directed by the Governor;
  - iii. December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year: Produce an annual report detailing the work that has been accomplished to advance each objective and the updated work plan for the following year.
10. The ICH member agencies shall serve as liaisons connecting their partners to the work of the ICH to ensure that the implementation of objectives from Executive Order No. 23-03 and associated findings are informed by people with lived experience of housing instability, historically and currently marginalized communities, tribal governments and other representatives of Indigenous communities, service providers, local government administrators, and advocates.
11. Members of the ICH shall not receive per diem for their activities as members of the ICH but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending ICH business pursuant to ORS 292.495(2), subject to availability of funds.
12. Executive Order No. 22-21 is repealed and replaced with this Executive Order.
13. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect unless terminated earlier by the Governor. The Governor shall reassess the necessity of this Executive Order every year and shall retain, modify, or supplement it as circumstances warrant.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
Tina Kotek  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:  
  
LaVonne Griffin-Valade  
SECRETARY OF STATE

