

This newsletter contains information from the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

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**Joint Office Monthly**

*August 2024 Edition*

To our partners and the community, welcome to our monthly newsletter!

Learn about the collective work that our office, service providers, and partners does and our shared commitment to make homelessness a rare and brief experience throughout Multnomah County.

**If experiencing or at risk of homelessness, call 211 or visit [211info.org](https://211info.org).**

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## Thank You Providers and Front-line Staff!

### Nearly 5,500 People Housed in Fiscal Year 2024!

Nearly 5,500 people moved into homes and left homelessness with the help of the Joint Office of Homeless Services and its contracted service providers in Fiscal Year 2023-24 — an increase of 1,211 people year-over-year (28%).

The annual increase in housing placements is the largest since the Joint Office launched in July 2016, driven by a surge in people newly served by the Supportive Housing Services Measure.

In addition, nearly 7,900 people entered shelter last fiscal year, an increase of more than 2,000 people year-over-year, or nearly 35%.

The Joint Office's data and evaluation team published [a year-end dashboard](#) charting the department's progress in helping people access housing and shelter, and other services for each quarter last fiscal year. The Joint Office also sent Metro its [fourth-quarter narrative report](#) focused specifically on Supportive Housing Services programming for the year.

[Read more](#)

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## Oregonian Op-ed by JOHS Director, Dan Field



In an op-ed published last week [in The Oregonian newspaper](#), JOHS Director Dan Field concludes:

“After years of criticism for lack of a plan, and with strong leadership from the county Board of Commissioners and Portland City Council, we now share a clear, detailed strategy for the next two years. Highlights include adding over 1,000 shelter beds and hundreds of new units of permanent supportive housing. We’ve also built key success metrics, a framework for oversight and accountability, and a governance structure that brings more people to the table.

“Our ability to right the ship and do what many critics thought was impossible tells me we’re on track, and that we must keep moving forward together instead of retreating to our corners. I am confident that when the Joint Office and our community stay aligned, we can — and will — rise to the challenge.”

[Read the Full Op-ed](#)

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## Provider Spotlight: 4D and TSA

Some success stories shared with us from some of our partner organizations working in East County (4D Recovery and the Salvation Army):

- An individual we encountered was living in a broken-down van and committed to doing "whatever it takes" to improve their situation. They stayed engaged with 4D, updated contact numbers regularly, and were moved into Blackburn Apartments after initially refusing another location due to distance. This individual secured a job at Chevron through SE Works (Worksource) and lived at Blackburn for nearly a year. Despite significant personal losses, they focused on mental health and qualified for Permanent Supportive Housing through Cascadia Health/Adult CA. This individual is now thriving and prioritizing self-care.
- One household assisted by the Salvation Army Outreach Team was an immigrant family from the Pacific Islands. This couple and their four-year-old child were living in their vehicle when they first connected with The Salvation Army. They had lost their home a few months earlier due to a job closure. Collaborating with Central City Concern and East County Housing, The Salvation Army helped the family secure permanent housing and employment opportunities.
- A person encountered by 4D Recovery, a physically disabled individual, sought help for temporary housing and detox from meth and fentanyl. With 4D's assistance, they entered Hooper Detox, stayed at TPI shelter, and accessed services at Miracles Club. Despite health challenges and being over 55, their motivation and determination to improve their life were remarkable.

The JOHS Outreach Team (the only team directly deployed by the JOHS) continues to build relationships with community members and partners in East County, including the HOPE Team and The Harvest Church Food Pantry volunteer staff. The Salvation Army and 4D outreach workers who make up the JOHS Outreach Team have overcome and worked through some of the same challenges that many outreach providers often experience. This team has been resourceful and resilient despite these challenges, and has had success in helping people move from homelessness into stable, supportive housing.

Find out more about the organizations involved in the JOHS' own pilot Outreach Team - a team that's mainly focused on East County, but which also provides support throughout Multnomah County:

Salvation Army

4D Recovery

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## Best Practices in Effective Sheltering

The JOHS Planning & Evaluation team will soon be releasing their **Effective Shelter Report, which outlines best practices in emergency shelter**. In order to provide further insight into improvements needed throughout the shelter system and how these factors may be influencing shelter outcomes, **additional data was collected from shelter providers to provide clarity around staffing levels, housing navigation, and shelter safety**. This data collection and analysis took place from July-August 2024, and is currently being integrated into the report. **The full report will be completed in early Fall.**

Another research project that is currently underway is a 2-year project with the Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative (HRAC) at Portland State University that began earlier this year. **This**

**project will investigate the factors that enable or impede people experiencing homelessness in their efforts to move into housing, including a focus on emergency shelter as a common part of individual pathways to housing.**

HRAC is currently in the early stages recruiting a project-specific Lived Experience Committee, and developing the survey to be conducted in the Fall. **The survey results and report for year one will be complete in early 2025. The final report for the project is planned to be complete near the end of 2025.**



A person (& pet) at one of the severe weather shelters operated by Multnomah County

**Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative**

**Train to Volunteer for Severe Weather Shelters**

Want to learn more about supporting [Multnomah County](#) emergency shelters when we activate during life-threatening heat or cold, or other

kinds of disasters? Join us at an upcoming Info Session and/or General Staff training to get prepared!

Visit [our volunteer page](#) to find all info session and training dates, read up on support roles and more.



Volunteers moving sleeping mats at a severe weather shelter

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## Trainings to Support Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence

The JOHS DSV (Domestic & Sexual Violence) Team is offering regular and ongoing training for housing providers in the Adult, Family and Youth Systems of Care to deepen skills for recognizing and responding to domestic and sexual violence.

Domestic and sexual violence is a primary cause of homelessness for women and children, and often creates significant barriers to obtaining and retaining housing. **These workshops are designed for non-DSV housing and shelter providers** to build skills for working with survivors who are accessing housing services.

Register for the virtual trainings below by clicking the link for each training you'd like to register for:

August 28, 2024 1pm-3pm

[DV 102: Strategies for Increasing Safety](#)

September 25, 2024 1pm-3pm

[DV 103: Survivor-Focused Housing Advocacy](#)

October 16, 2024 1:30pm-3pm

[Sexual Assault 101](#)

October 17, 2024 10am-12pm

[DV 101: Understanding & Responding to Abuse](#)

October 23, 2024 10am-12pm

[VAWA Implementation for the Multnomah County CoC](#)

November 21, 2024 10am-12pm

[DV 102: Strategies for Increasing Safety](#)

December 19, 2024 10am-12pm

[DV 103: Survivor-Focused Housing Advocacy](#)

Please contact Jaidra Hennessey - DSV Technical Assistance Program Specialist [jaidra.hennessey@multco.us](mailto:jaidra.hennessey@multco.us) with questions or technical assistance needs

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## Continuum of Care - Notice of Funding Opportunity

On July 31st, 2024 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the [2024-2025 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

As part of this year's CoC Program Competition, agencies may submit new and expanded project applications under the CoC



Bonus and the Domestic Violence Bonus process through the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS).

JOHS released solicitations for CoC Bonus funds and DV Bonus funds today, August 6, 2024, and applications are due on September 3, 2024 at 11:59 PM.



## Award Details

Our CoC may apply for the following estimated awards:

- **Annual Renewal Demand:**  
**\$33,727,378**
  - Currently, \$156,587 in reallocated funding is available for new projects due to non-renewing renewal projects.
- **CoC Bonus Amount:**  
**\$4,047,285**
- **DV Bonus amount:**  
**\$1,364,160**

[Learn more](#)

We encourage agencies that do not currently receive CoC Program Funds and current recipients to attend the workshop and consider applying for a new permanent supportive housing project, a new rapid re-housing project, and/or a new joint transitional housing/rapid rehousing project. These program funds can be used to fund new projects or expand current CoC-funded projects.

The following overview provides information about the local process required by HUD as part of this competition, including key dates.

You can find more information about the 2024-25 CoC NOFO on [HUD's website](#).

## Find More Info about the Application Process

### Contact the Collaborative Applicant

JOHS is the Collaborative Applicant for the Portland, Gresham/Multnomah County Continuum of Care.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to Alyssa Plesser ([alyssa.plesser@multco.us](mailto:alyssa.plesser@multco.us)) if you have any questions!

You may also direct questions about the competition process to [multnomahnofo@homebaseccc.org](mailto:multnomahnofo@homebaseccc.org).

### Coordinated Access Redesign Webinar



The Joint Office of Homeless Services is leading a redesign of the local Coordinated Access Adult and Family systems. The new tool

and process will be implemented systemwide in October 2024. For providers working to connect unhoused clients to Coordinated Access housing resources, we hosted webinars to share what's changing and how we engaged the community in this redesign. You can view the webinar in the video linked above ([direct link to the video](#)).

You can [find out more about the new tool and process](#), including [additional FAQs](#), on our website.

Please email [katie.dineen@multco.us](mailto:katie.dineen@multco.us) if you have any questions.

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## Upcoming Meetings

We welcome the public to attend our advisory committee and board meetings!

Find the meeting schedule for the following committees and boards below. You can also find more details on our website.

### **Community Budget Advisory Committee**

Monday, August 26, 2024 - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Click here for [Virtual Meeting](#)

### **Continuum of Care Board**

Thursday, September 19, 2024 - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Click here for [Virtual Meeting](#)

### **Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Advisory Committee**

Thursday, September 12, 2024 - 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Click here for [Virtual Meeting](#)

Please email [johnscommunityadvisory@multco.us](mailto:johnscommunityadvisory@multco.us) with any questions.

[View our Boards & Committees](#)

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## Resources for People Experiencing Homelessness

### [Who to Call for What](#)

A list of hotlines, helplines and other useful phone numbers.

Visit [Oregon Law Help](#) or [Oregon Renters Rights](#) for information about rental assistance and eviction protection.

### [Street Roots' Rose City Resource Guide](#)

Searchable list of food, housing, and other resources in PDX.

## Racial Justice & Equity Resources

### [Data on Race, Ethnicity and Homelessness](#)

A report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

### [History of Racism in Zoning](#)

Learn about the history of exclusionary zoning and how it was used in the United States to marginalize people of color, featuring Dr. Marisa Zapata of the Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative at Portland State University.

### [Oregon Statewide Report](#)

This report, released in February of 2024, shows that homelessness continues to rise across Oregon, disproportionately affecting communities of color and rural communities.

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## Employment Opportunities

Multnomah County/JOHS:

[Homelessness Response System Director](#)

[Homeless Services Program Specialist](#)

[Homeless Services Planning and Evaluation Program Specialist](#)

[Special Initiatives Program Specialist Senior](#)

Employment opportunities at our partner organizations:

- [All Good NW](#)
- [2-1-1 Info](#)
- [Beacon Village PDX](#)
- [Blanchet House](#)
- [Bradley Angle](#)
- [Bridges to Change](#)
- [Call to Safety](#)
- [Cascade AIDS Project](#)
- [Cascadia Health](#)
- [Catholic Charities](#)
- [Central City Concern](#)
- [City Team Portland](#)
- [Community Partners for Affordable Housing](#)
- [Cultivate Initiatives](#)
- [Do Good Multnomah](#)
- [Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#)
- [Janus Youth](#)
- [JOIN](#)
- [Latino Network](#)
- [Multnomah County](#)
- [Native American Rehabilitation Association \(NARA\)](#)
- [Native American Youth & Family Center \(NAYA\)](#)
- [Neighborhood House](#)
- [New Avenues for Youth](#)
- [Northwest Pilot Project](#)
- [Our Just Future](#)
- [Outside In](#)
- [Path Home](#)
- [Raphael House of Portland](#)
- [Self Enhancement, Inc.](#)
- [Transition Projects. Inc.](#)
- [Urban League of Portland](#)

- [El Programa Hispano Católico](#)
- [Home Forward](#)
- [Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization \(IRCO\)](#)
- [Volunteers of America](#)
- [Washington County](#)
- [Worksystems](#)
- [YWCA of Greater Portland](#)

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

It is important that we continue to acknowledge the underlying issues that make homelessness so pervasive across the U.S. From structural racism and disparities, to the economic and social impact from COVID-19, the lack of affordable housing and healthcare, and other challenges of meeting people's basic needs, homelessness is a collective issue we need to address together.

Share this newsletter to spread awareness about the meaningful, impactful, and life-saving work taking place in Multnomah County.

Thank you for your interest, work, and care in helping our neighbors experiencing and at risk of homelessness get the support they need to get into and maintain their housing.

Let's make homelessness a rare and brief experience for all!

This notice was distributed to those who have [signed up](#) to hear about opportunities to participate and receive updates on the Joint Office of Homeless Services and the local implementation of [Metro's Supportive Housing Measure](#) in Multnomah County.

Did you receive this email from someone else and would like to join our mailing list for future updates? Click below to sign up!

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