

Fast Facts

Every year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development checks in on nationwide fair housing practices and housing discrimination. Their 2008 report, released June 8, found that housing authorities in 2008 received a record number of discrimination complaints from renters and homebuyers.

- 10,552 housing discrimination complaints were filed with housing authorities in 2008 — more than in any other year.
- 44 percent of complaints alleged discrimination because of disability.
- 35 percent alleged discrimination based on race.
- 57 percent said their rental or sale property included discriminatory terms, conditions, services or facilities.
- 25 percent said a landlord wouldn't rent to them because of their disability, race, family status, national origin, sex or religion.
- 13 percent of those who filed complaints said they'd experienced coercion or intimidation, threats, interference or retaliation.
- One-third of complaint cases resulted in conciliation or settlements.
- The state with the most housing discrimination complaints in 2008 was California, with 1,282, followed by Texas with 940.
- Oregon had 114 complaints of discriminatory housing practices.
- In 2008, HUD granted \$356,800 to Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Fair Housing Council of Oregon to educate the public on fair housing and to investigate and mediate complaints.

ACT NOW

Steps you can take to make a difference

What you can do:

Call the Portland HUD field office and tell them to restore \$550,000 in funding needed to make sure more Oregon families are not kicked to the streets.

Phone: (971) 222-2600

AT ISSUE: SECTION 8

Demand HUD meet the full demand of housing our poor, disabled and elderly

Problem

Northwest Oregon Housing Authority (NOHA) sent a letter May 26 notifying 285 low-income households in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties that they will be cut off their Section 8 vouchers effective July 1. For some, the assistance is more than 90 percent of their rent. NOHA hopes to have funding reinstated at the end of the year, at which time the families could have their Section 8 restored. However, the assistance is uncertain and these households cannot wait that long.

Solution

- Immediate action from HUD is requested to fill the funding gap to keep people in their homes. The overall gap is \$600,000, but Oregon Housing and Community Services has contributed \$50,000 to provide rental assistance for an estimated 15-20 households who were previously homeless and have the greatest need, for an estimated six months. The remaining figure requested from HUD, therefore, is \$550,000.
- Poverty and unemployment in these rural communities is a serious problem. The State of Oregon recently reported that homelessness in Oregon has increased 35-37%. Dona Bolt, Oregon Department Of Education Homeless Education Coordinator, reports that in school year 2007-2008 the school districts in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties had 540 homeless students, of which 460 were in families.

Breaking down stereotypes

You might think of Street Roots as a social-justice newspaper with a fresh perspective. Or you might think of it as a hand-up for the men and women who sell the paper. But at its heart, Street Roots is about seeing past our preconceptions to recognize the common threads that make us human.

Every day we make assumptions about each other. Snap judgments are based on characteristics as arbitrary as skin color, sexual orientation, or economic status. In an instant, we might write a person's whole life story. Street Roots helps us to look past our assumptions, to un-write these stories based on stereotypes and fear.



And it all starts with a conversation. Every day, Street Roots vendors are out selling the paper, talking to customers, creating opportunities. With each newspaper sale, each interaction, two people have the chance to look past assumptions and re-write the stories.

Your support keeps these conversations alive. Every time you buy a Street Roots newspaper, you help to foster a human element in a society that is too often filled with intolerance, fear, and alienation. Thank you for taking the time to reach into your pocket or purse for that \$1, and for taking a moment to chat with a vendor.

As a small, grassroots organization, Street Roots also needs your support. We rely on contributions from our readers to print a quality newspaper, create income opportunities for vendors, and to keep challenging assumptions one relationship at a time. We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for your tax-deductable donation to Street Roots!

Donations of any size are welcome! We are also looking for Rose City Sponsorships of \$1,000 - \$5,000. For more information, call Israel Bayer at 503-228-5657.

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Street Roots is a 501(c)3, nonprofit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.

Or donate securely online at www.streetroots.org