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Housing

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Northwest Pilot Project, told *The Skanner*.

Espinoza's organization connects low-income seniors in Multnomah County with housing. She said the Northwest Pilot Project supported HB 2100 in solidarity with culturally specific organizations outside of Multnomah County, specifically those facing significant barriers to serving rural populations.

“Just looking at it in aggregate, looking at the way White supremacy is so embedded in so many of our structures and systems – especially around housing, and especially around programs being delivered to communities that have been marginalized or left out – we just don't think (the CAA-dominant system) is good enough,” Espinoza said. She described the NWPP as “more a White-dominant cultural organization” that delivers some services that are culturally responsive, but not culturally specific.

She added, “As social service organizations, we envision ourselves as fully about what's right, and fully about the community, and fully about social justice, but the reality is that there are pieces that are deeply embedded in how we do things that we need to take a hard look at.

“We need to look at how our systems that are designed to help people can also be harmful.”

Holland voiced a similar observation.

“The most basic principle is, if you're from the community you'll probably know how to serve it better than your coun-

terparts,” she said. “Particularly in the houseless system, it is not uncommon for us to hear stories of people who have dealt with microaggressions or barriers to how services are provided, or trust issues,” she said. “And being from a culturally specific community, or culturally responsive agency that's built enough trust to be in a community, them being able to provide services without so much red tape, and without so much time passing by, is helpful. The very pur-

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pose of the funds -- emergency housing assistance -- by its nature it's meant to go out quickly. It's meant to be a safety net.”

An Issue of Timing

Should HB 2100 pass, it would not go into effect until the next fiscal year begins on July 1, 2022. Still, it would provide a comparable fast-track for organizations who currently have to navigate unfamiliar and protracted timelines with CAAs.

“I would say that from many service providers, we've heard ‘We wish you would've done this earlier. We wish it wouldn't have taken the state so long to stand up and to actually be bold in policy,’” Andrea Bell, director of housing stabi-

lization at OHCS, told *The Skanner*. “We are proud that we have this piece of policy, and we also are under no illusion that the state could have and probably should have done more a while ago.”

Bell added, “One of the many things we learned through this process is to not make assumption around who or who does not have capacity. Certainly at the state, that's not our job to deem and determine and fill gaps with things that we may not know. And what we heard through this process was, some folks feeling like culturally specific agencies maybe wouldn't be competitive, or maybe don't have capacity to do that. Our position is, well, whether they do or do not have capacity, they are the ones to answer that. But if there's no funding available, how would they have capacity? How would they be able to grow capacity without access to these funds? It sort of fundamentally brings up a larger question: what is the value to our system by statutorily excluding who can receive the funds?”

Gaining Traction

Supporters of HB 2100 described the current moment as one of “concurrent crises” -- a long-established homelessness crisis paired with a public health crisis and the ensuing economic fallout.

“We're talking about a trifecta here, and in the midst of looking at this data and what it's telling us is that from a policy perspective, from an implementation perspective, it's not okay, it is not enough, it's not sufficient to simply rely on the tools of yesterday to help us to ascend to a new place today,” Bell said.

And there is hardly a

lack of resources available, she explained.

“Over the last now over a year, we have received hundreds of millions of dollars in COVID emergency response dollars,” Bell said. “We received dollars that by far triple what we normally receive in a two-year allocation, typically.”

Bell welcomed HB 2100 as an opportunity for the state to examine its funding structures and to make some key reforms.

“It creates performance expectations, it creates expectations around culturally responsive and culturally specific service providers. It actually has definitions around ‘culturally specific’ and ‘culturally responsive,’” she said.

Espinoza, too, welcomed the metrics the bill would codify.

“The bill says to these regions, ‘What are you doing to end homelessness? What are you doing specifically to make year-over-year differences in the racial disparities that we see in

RENAISSANCE COMMONS WAITLIST OPEN

REACH CDC is pleased to announce that our newly constructed Renaissance Commons in North Portland is open. The waitlist for Renaissance Commons will open on Thursday, April 22, 2021 for anyone who wishes to apply. The building has studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units. The units are restricted for households with income at or below 60% of the Area Median Income. Rents start at \$910 per month. Please visit <http://reachproperties.org/wait-list/> for more information.

4-21-21



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housing access?’ We just don't think that's going to be possible to do under the current structure that we're in,” she told *The Skanner*.

The state House Committee on Housing last week recommended passing the bill with amendments and referred the bill to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

“It feels inevitable,”

Holland said. “I would be very surprised if it dies.”

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4-21-21



SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

Oregon Community Foundation is hiring a Senior Research Officer, who will work as part of a collaborative, innovative and dynamic team directing, conducting and disseminating research and analysis of Oregon's pressing issues and evaluation of OCF's own programs and initiatives to inform OCF's priorities, activities and operations. For more info and to apply: <https://oregoncf.org/about/careers>. Closing date: 5/11/2021. EOE

4-21-21



COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSISTANT

Oregon Community Foundation is hiring a Community Impact Assistant to provide a wide range of complex and confidential executive support to the Chief Community Impact Officer and high-level administrative support for the Community Impact Department. The range of duties requires ability both to manage a proactive and time-sensitive work schedule on an independent basis and to work productively as part of a team. For more info and to apply: <https://oregoncf.org/about/careers>. Closing date: 5/10/2021. EOE

4-21-21

SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

ONTARIO PCCC
1085 North Oregon Street
Ontario, Oregon 97914

Bids Due: 5/11/2021 by 12 PM
Pre-Bid RFIs Due: 4/29/2021 by 12PM

LMC Construction is requesting bids for a conversion of an existing 52,162 SF single story former nursing home structure into a 56-unit apartment building. Project scope includes abatement of hazardous materials, building and accessibility code upgrades, structural upgrades, new insulation, weatherproofing, windows, doors, roofing, and exterior cladding. Interior upgrades includes new finishes, wholesale replacement of plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems. Site upgrades include site demolition, earthwork, stormwater management upgrades, site utilities, landscaping, and parking lot modifications.

Construction to begin June 2021

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4/27/2021 @ 10 AM PDT.

All bidding documents & other information are located at link:
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Bid Contact:

Ryan Duffin (RyanD@lmconstruction.com) & Roger Dong (RogerD@lmconstruction.com)



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LMC Construction is an equal opportunity employer and requests sub-bids from all interested firms including emerging small business, women-owned, disadvantaged, disabled veterans and minority enterprises.

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Camp

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that appear to be either stolen or evidence of a crime -- would be stored by the municipality for 90 days for the owners to reclaim.

However, some argued that the extensions would be challenging, unnecessary and not feasible.

Among them was Lucas Hillier, the program manager for the City of Portland Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program. For the past six years, the program has been responsible for coordinating the cleanup of campsites in Portland.

Hillier said in written testimony that currently the program gives a 48-hour notice.

“We have found that to be a good balance to provide individuals enough advance notice while at the same time still allowing us to be response when necessary,” Hillier said.

Hillier along with Republican Rep. Kim Wal- lan raised concerns that the extended 72-hour notice could create challenges in intervening earlier in “severe” circumstances.

Under the proposed bill, a 72-hour notice

would not be required when there are illegal activities at the site, possible contamination by hazardous materials or when there is immediate danger to human life or safety.

Hillier said in addition, holding property for an additional two months may not be feasible.

“In the overwhelming majority of instances, people collect their belongings within days of the cleanup,” Hillier said. “The City would need to triple the capacity of our current 5,500 (square foot) storage facility at a significant cost.”