

Events & Announcements

Portland & Seattle News Briefs

Oregon Housing and Community Services awards \$8.7 million in down payment and home repair for veterans

Oregon Housing and Community Services is awarding more than \$8.7 million to eligible organizations representing 27 counties to support veterans via down payment assistance and home repair funds.

“OHCS holds sacred its promise to service members and their families, insisting to deliver a better future,” said OHCS Executive Director Andrea Bell. “This promise is enduring. Today’s housing progress demonstrates how we go beyond words of thanks, taking concrete action to care for veterans and their families.”

Eleven organizations from Portland to Josephine County were awarded down payment assistance funds. Eligible veterans and their families at or below 100% of area median income can qualify for up to \$60,000 depending on specific program guidelines. In addition, an amount up to 10% of the down payment assistance can be used for lender-required repairs.

“We are honored to be selected as a recipient of the veterans Down Payment Assistance funds. This award represents more than just financial support—it’s a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to expanding homeownership and building generational wealth for those who have served our country,” said Juan Campos, director of HOME Pathways, a program of the Community Development Corporation of Oregon. “We look forward to bringing this critical resource to more individuals and helping create financially resilient communities throughout Oregon.”

Six organizations also were awarded home repair funds, which assist homeowners who are veterans and are at risk of living in unhealthy homes or who are subject to potential displacement due to health and safety concerns. This allows veterans to enjoy the benefits of living in habitable, safe, healthy, and sustainable homes.

Homeowners who are veterans can apply for these resources to address issues such as:

- Accessibility/adaptability modifications
- Updates to code compliance
- Emergency repairs
- Repairs for structural integrity

OHCS acknowledges those families of veterans who helped shoulder the weight of war and the burdens of sacrifice, and thus these resources have been expanded to include serving the spouse of a deceased veteran.

New data shows King County program helps residents maintain stable housing and improve health

King County’s Department of Community & Human Services released new data on the Health Through Housing program showing that 95% of permanent supportive housing residents were able to maintain a stable home. The data also shows improved health outcomes, including 33% shorter hospital stays, 22% fewer hospital stays, and a 17% decrease in ER visits.

“When people have a roof over their head and the wraparound support services they need, the foundation is set for lasting change,” said Executive Shannon Braddock. “This is a great example of how government can make a tangible difference in people’s lives.”

Health Through Housing combines supportive housing with access to onsite services like workforce training, financial planning, physical and behavioral health care, and food programs.

In 2024, Health Through Housing:

- Provided stable housing: 95% of permanent supportive housing residents and 77% of all residents remained housed over the course of the year.
- Reached more people: 1,281 people were served across 11 locations in five cities (Auburn, Burien, Redmond, Renton, and Seattle) — a 41% increase from 2023.
- Improved health outcomes: Residents experienced 33% shorter hospital stays, 22% fewer hospital stays, and a 17% decrease in ER visits.
- Maintained high occupancy: Nine of 11 open buildings were at or near full capacity.
- Supported underserved populations: 44% of residents were over 50 years old, 55% identified as BIPOC, and 36% reported having a physical disability. Also, 67% reported having a mental health condition and 52% a substance use disorder.
- Rooted in local communities: 97% of residents previously had ties to the neighborhood where they now live.

Later this year, King County DCHS expects to open three new Health Through Housing locations in Federal Way, Kirkland, and Seattle. For more information, visit <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/health-through-housing>.

IN MEMORIAM: Ananda Lewis Remembered for Power, Purpose, Grace



Ananda Lewis at LA Direct Magazine’s “Remember to Give” Holiday Party at Les Deux in Hollywood, Ca (Wikimedia Commons)

By Stacy M. Brown
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National Correspondent

Tributes have continued to pour in for Ananda Lewis, the former MTV VJ and host of BET’s Teen Summit, one day after her death at the age of 52. Donnie Simpson, the legendary BET host and radio DJ, shared his heartbreak. “I just found out that Ananda Lewis has died and I’m absolutely brokenhearted,” Simp-

ry, graduating cum laude in 1995. She spent her college years deeply engaged in youth activism, including volunteering with Youth at Risk and working with the Youth Leadership and Development Institute to train young people in leadership, conflict resolution, and parenting.

Her commitment to empowering youth ultimately led her to television. With the encouragement of teenagers she mentored, Lewis au-

“I saw MTV not only as access to the masses but also as an opportunity to be more of the woman I am.” –Lewis

son said. “She had tremendous success at MTV and with her own talk show, but she worked with us at BET before all that. She was only 52 and such a lovely woman, who loved her young son so much.” Actress Holly Robinson Peete paid her respects on X, writing, “Rest well, beautiful Ananda.” DJ Syndicated Sam added, “Ananda Lewis, you are forever an icon. Sending love to her family & friends in this season of bereavement.”

Known for her powerful presence on television, Lewis brought intellect, compassion, and charisma to every platform she graced.

A native of San Diego, California, she began making an impact as early as 13 when she volunteered with Head Start while attending the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts. She studied theater, vocal music, photography, and dance from the fourth grade through high school. After graduating, Lewis attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she earned a degree in histo-

ditioned for BET’s Teen Summit and became its host. Her on-screen chemistry with co-host DaJour and her earnest engagement with issues affecting young people helped the show earn an NAACP Image Award in 1997 and a nomination for a Cable ACE Award in 1996.

In 1997, Lewis made the leap to MTV. While the move meant leaving a show that was deeply personal, she recognized the opportunity to reach broader audiences. “I saw MTV not only as access to the masses but also as an opportunity to be more of the woman I am,” Lewis said. She went on to host The Ananda Lewis Show, a daytime talk show that debuted in 2001 and further solidified her place as a voice of insight and authenticity in media.

Throughout her career, she remained focused on empowerment and advocacy, often working to uplift others even when the spotlight was no longer on her.

Lewis is survived by her son, who is a constant source of love and pride.

Seattle has a new traffic hack.

The SR 509 Expressway opens soon.



The new tolled expressway will help manage congestion by providing an alternative route to the ports and industrial areas near SeaTac. There will be no carpool lanes or HOV exemptions.

You’ll still be able to use the routes you take today without paying a toll, including the existing SR 509 north of South 188th Street.

Try it free through summer!

Learn more at GoodToGo509.com.

