

## More qualify for below-market rate, state Residential Loans

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has increased the annual income limits for its Residential Loan Program, a below-market interest rate loan program serving low and moderate income Oregonians and other applicable multi-family programs administered by the department. "We are excited about the increased income limits because we now have the opportunity to help more Oregon families find affordable housing," said Bob Repine, OHCS Director.

This increase was made possible by an annual income adjustment recently announced by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These figures were released on January 31. For more information about these specific limits, visit HUD's website at [www.huduser.org](http://www.huduser.org)

"The new median income limits will be applied by the department on a program-by-program basis according to each program's unique underwriting and monitoring guidelines," said Bob Gillespie, Housing Division Administrator.

The new median family income limits were approved by the State Housing Council at their meeting on February 22. There is a statewide household income limit and also higher limits for properties being purchased in the five-county Portland area and Benton County. The new annual household in-

come limit Statewide is \$48,900. The old limit was \$47,800. In Benton County, the new limit is \$57,400, up from \$55,700 and in Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill Counties, the new limit is \$57,200, up from \$55,900.

These new limits apply to all

single-family loans and other applicable multi-family loans reserved by OHCS on or after February 22.

Oregon Housing and Community Services is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, afford-

able housing for lower income Oregonians. The Department also administers federal and state anti-poverty, homeless and energy assistance community services programs.

For more information on the programs and services offered through OHCS, visit [www.hcs.state.or.us](http://www.hcs.state.or.us)

## Board achieves consensus on setting some budget priorities

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district's budget, directors have found it difficult to establish budget priorities.

This is particularly important when engaged in the painful process of cutting an already meager budget. While most of the directors appeared ready for the discussion, Krahn said he did not remember being asked to prepare a list of budget priorities.

While the board was attempting to determine a method of evaluating budget items, Hansen noted that a top priority would have to be funding for programs mandated by the state. Krahn disagreed, saying "We're throwing out the

law - if they don't send us a check we're not going to do anything. We're going to be rebels." He stated similar sentiments several times during the discussion.

Nevertheless, a majority of the board agreed that the budget process should make every effort to maintain the student/teacher ratio, counseling services, education alternatives for at-risk students, development of instruction and curriculum, and building maintenance. Funding for extra-curricular activities and technology received only slightly less priority.

Maintenance of school grounds and funding for sup-

plies and equipment fared less well, even though the board agreed that supplies and equipment are necessary for instruction. Additions to the capital reserve fund, which can be used only for future school buildings, were briefly discussed but also fared poorly.

### Policy changes made

During the business meeting the board amended district policy on directory information, to align it with federal requirements, and passed a resolution to approve the services provided by the ESD.

### Parent complaint

A parent began to present a personnel complaint to the board, but Chairman Strand

stopped the presentation because the board has final review regarding complaints against personnel, and district procedure had not yet been followed.

McClellan explained that the board must remain impartial before any unresolved personnel complaints are brought before it. The parent needs to file a complaint, in writing, with the superintendent. If he is unable to resolve the issue by working with all of the parties involved, it can then be brought before the board of directors in an executive session. State law prohibits the board from discussing personnel matters in a public session.

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