

# Senator Johnson, Rep. Edwards receive honors on October 7

The Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON) honored Senator Betsy Johnson and Representative David Edwards with Legislative Champion Awards at their annual banquet, October 7. Oregon ON chose Senator Johnson and Representative Edwards to receive the awards because of their crucial work on the Housing Opportunity Bill.

The bill, passed midway through the 2009 legislative session, raises the document recording fee in Oregon's real estate transactions by \$15 dollars. Over 2009-2011, it will generate an estimated \$15 million in funds that will be used to prevent homelessness through emergency rent assistance, to create new affordable housing, and to provide greater opportunities for home ownership for first-time buyers.

Oregon ON also honored Senator Johnson and Representative Edwards for their work on the Lottery-backed bonds bill, which will produce \$19.4 million in 2009-2011 to preserve subsidized rental housing and manufactured home parks, keeping vulnerable Oregonians in their homes.

Other awards to honor this year's successful legislative efforts were Outstanding Industry Allies Awards given to the Oregon Bankers Association, the Oregon Homebuilders Association, and the Oregon Association of Realtors. Housing Heroes awards were given to Janet Byrd, Phil Donovan and Rick Cramer.

Oregon ON's mission is to support and strengthen its members through advocacy, communications, peer learning, and best practices development. Oregon ON was founded in July 2008 as the result of the merger of the Association of Oregon Community Development Organizations (AOCD) and the Community Development Network (CDN). [www.oregonon.org](http://www.oregonon.org).

"In the current economy, these bills' passage is nothing short of amazing," said Michael Anderson, Executive Director of Oregon ON. "It wouldn't have happened if not for the session-long, passionate support by Senator Johnson and Representative Edwards. Their commitment has been unwavering. We are proud to have them as allies in the struggle to ensure every family in Oregon has a stable home and the opportunity to succeed in life."

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