



Taking action for basic human needs.



HSCO 2017 Principles

For over three decades, the Human Service Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) has convened like-minded advocates and organizations to fight for the policy development and resources necessary to support vulnerable Oregonians. We recognize the fiscal challenges facing the Oregon State Legislature as they work to put together the state budget for the 2017-2019 biennium. In these troubling times of strained budgets and limited revenue, HSCO will work to support a budget that invests the resources necessary to give each Oregonian an equal chance at economic security through affordable housing, a strengthened safety net, and access to health care.

Current Issues

Current service level funding for the programs that vulnerable Oregonians rely on will not provide the safety and security that this population deserves. Oregon's economy continues to strengthen; however, we know that many Oregonians are still working to climb out of the depths of our economy's most recent recession.

For example, we estimate that approximately 250,000 Oregonians do not have access to affordable health insurance. The Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCP) has chronicled the plight of Oregon's working poor, noting that full time employment is no longer a guaranteed way to progress out of poverty. Furthermore, the OCP reports that approximately 70% of Oregon's poor families have at least one parent working.

While we understand that resources are limited, HSCO will continue to advocate for the resources necessary to adequately address the needs of Oregonians working to rise out of poverty as well as for those with disabling conditions seeking to live a life of dignity and independence. Unfortunately, funding programs at current service levels will not be enough to support the population of working poor that is rapidly expanding in our state. Current service level funding will not provide health care coverage to all Oregon children, an effort HSCO has supported through advocacy for both HB 2726 and SB 558. Current service level funding will not be enough to create new housing affordability programs for Oregonians that are struggling to find an affordable place to live. And finally, we know that current service level funding will not update the TANF benefit structure, which is still connected the antiquated funding mechanisms that have been in place since 1996.

Solutions

As the legislature debates state budget funding levels over the next few months, HSCO, remaining true to our values, will work hard to make sure our programs are not pitted against each other in small battles for limited funding. We will continue to advocate, in a unified voice, for the resources that level the economic playing field for all Oregonians. We will advance efforts that align with the principles made clear in the following legislative directive.

HSCO Co-Chairs

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HSCO 2017 Legislative Directive

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) is a well-established group of advocates and organizations with the goal of creating a place for collaboration, partnership, and dialogue between health, housing and human service providers. We work as a collective to advocate for increased revenue for these critical community investments. With this goal in mind, HSCO is taking a firm stance in support of budget topics and policy legislation that seek to protect and enhance critical services for Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

What does HSCO Support?

- Equal access to the services and opportunities that provide a positive benefit to the lives of vulnerable Oregonians.
- Sustainable funding for the programs that benefit the lives of low income or vulnerable Oregonians. New revenue should adhere to HSCO Budget Principles and be fair, adequate, stable and transparent.
- Culturally competent services that promote choice, dignity and empowerment.
- Transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the administration and provision of programs and services.
- Meaningful inclusion of consumers and advocates in policy formulation program development and evaluation.
- Living wages for all, including those who provide services to vulnerable Oregonians.
- Unity of diverse communities to promote common concerns.

Budget

HSCO understands the Constitutional requirement to balance the budget, and we support a thorough look at each and every program and tax expenditure to ensure that they are value based and efficiently administered. HSCO has repeatedly supported plans that generate new revenue and efforts to reduce spending in programs that do not affect the lives of vulnerable Oregonians. As the legislature considers funding for the 2017-2019 budget, we urge the legislature to prioritize state funding as follows:

1. Prioritize programs that will provide cost savings downstream. Examples include:
 - a. evidence based programs that provide intervention and supports to children facing adverse childhood experiences, childhood trauma, abuse and neglect, or developmental disabilities as well as seniors and people with disabilities facing abuse and neglect.
 - b. programs which leverage large amounts of federal or private funding such as Long Term Services and Supports or School-Based Health Centers
2. Support programs that are essential for the lives or safety Oregonians, such as the Oregon Health Plan, TANF, and General Assistance.

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Endorsing Legislation

HSCO takes direction from our member organizations to set our legislative agenda. HSCO members have voted to endorse the following legislative initiatives in 2017:

Housing

- SB 1: Agricultural Workforce Housing Operation Tax Credit
- Mortgage Interest Deduction Reform
- HB 2004: Tenant protections

Public Safety

- HB 3078 and SB 894: The Safety and Savings Act

Health Care

- HB 2392: Support Access to Sound for Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- HB 2408: Health and Wellness in Schools
- SB 494: Advanced Directives
- SB 558 and HB 2726: Cover All Kids
- HB 3391: Reproductive Health Equity Act
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Other

- HB 2005 and SB 752: Fair Pay
- HB 2221: Protect Children from Child Abuse
- HB 2355: End Profiling Act
- HB 3087: Paid Family & Medical Leave Insurance Program
- HB 2684: Group Homes Transparency, Enhanced Enforcement and Wage Pass through
- HB 2685: Group Homes, Three Options

Coalitions

- Stable Home for Oregon Families
- Oregonians for Affordable Drug Pricing Now

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2017 HSCO Members

Sustaining Members

Association of Oregon Counties
CareOregon
Cascadia Behavioral Health
Central City Concern
Clackamas County Social Services
Health Share of Oregon
Kaiser Foundation Plan of the NW
Oregon Health Care Association
Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon ADSCME Council 75
Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Medical Association
Oregon Nurses Association
SEIU Local 503

Individual Members

Jonathan Bartholomew
Alice Bartelt
Dianne and Eric Carlson
Mary Jaeger
Marcia Kelley
Rosa and Jose Klein
Glenn Koehrsen
Lee Mercer
John Mullin
Bill Olson
Doug Riggs
Eva Rippeteau
Fred Steele
Christine Vogel
Ellen Wagle

Organizational Members

211info
ALS
Alzheimer's Association
CASA of Oregon
CCO Oregon
CFM Strategic Communications
Children First for Oregon
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Disability Rights Oregon
EBI Public Affairs, Inc
Elders in Action
Halfway House
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Janus Youth Programs
Leading Age Oregon
League of Women Voters
Neighborhood Partnerships
New Perspectives for Counseling
Oregon AEYC
Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Council on DD
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Oregon Primary Care Association
Partners for Hunger Free Oregon
Partnership for Safety and Justice
Social Services of Clackamas County
Tax Fairness Oregon

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