



Taking action for basic human needs.



HSCO 2015 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 to Oregon's most vulnerable populations.

What does HSCO Support?

- Access to quality services and opportunities that respond to people's needs.
- Sustainable funding for the programs on which people rely.
- 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 those who provide services.
- Unity of diverse communities to promote common concerns.

Budget

Human Services Funding

HSCO supports a budget that provides a continued basic level of support for vital services for Oregon's most vulnerable populations. Specifically, we support the following measures: \$100 Million for Affordable Housing, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families reinvestment, funding the long term care Ombudsman, EHA investment, Oregon Energy Assistance Program enhancement, continued justice reinvestment in HB 5606, supporting the Oregon Hunger Response Fund, funding fresh food incentives, and mental health investment for expanded services.

Special Purpose Appropriation – Senior and Disability Services

In the 2013 special session, legislators made changes to the senior medical deduction that resulted in a \$26 million general special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board for future distribution to programs or activities supporting seniors. HSCO maintains that any future savings from changes to the senior medical deduction should be continually reinvested in subsequent biennia to provide vital services for seniors and people with disabilities.



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Fully Fund the Oregon Health Plan

HSCO members view health care as a basic human right and we support full funding of Oregon Health Plan up to the statutory maximum in the 2015-2016 biennium.

Legislative Endorsements

HSCO takes direction from our member organizations to set our legislative agenda. HSCO members have voted to endorse the following legislative initiatives in 2015.

Public Safety

- HB 2031: Marion/Multnomah County pilot project

Human Services and Housing

- HB 2219: work group to study consolidation of application processes for human and social services
- HB 2015: Expand and improve the Employment -Related Day Care (ERDC)
- SB 225: DHS Notification requirement changes with amendments
- HB 2194: General Assistance Pilot Project
- HB 2545: Eliminate the school lunch co-pay for reduced-price students
- SB 616 and SB 617 – Restoration of Fairview Housing Trust and work group to modernize its use

Healthcare

- HB 2934: Basic Health Plan
- Funding for Health Care Study Bill
- President Courtney's mental health package

Tax/Revenue

- HB 2070: Cancellation of the Gain Share Program
- HB 2115: extend the sunset on the Working Family Child Care Credit
- HB 2076 and HB 2096: close the Conway loophole
- HB 2011: IDA Renewal

Miscellaneous

- Fair Shot Agenda
- Raise the minimum wage
- Inclusionary Zoning
- Children First for Oregon Agenda
- Fair Wage Recovery Act