

OREGON HIV HOUSING TASK FORCE

Vision:

The Oregon HIV Housing Task Force seeks to assure that all Oregonians living with HIV/AIDS have a safe, affordable and stable home.

Mission:

The Oregon HIV Housing Task Force seeks to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for PLWH by providing education, advice and guidance about housing and HIV issues to local, state and federal agencies. Recognizing the importance of providing stable access to “three homes – physical, spiritual/emotional and community, the Task Force’s mission includes looking holistically at the full continuum of care for people living with HIV in the state and finding ways to help create opportunities for consumers and providers to engage in their local communities around the issues of HIV and housing.

Responsibilities:

1. Review HIV housing needs assessment.
2. Review HOPWA utilization information provided by HIV Client Services.
3. Review legislative and statewide housing information provided by Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS).
4. Review information about challenges/issues/problems with HOPWA implementation.
5. Annually, undertake a strategic planning process that includes review of needs, gaps analysis, goals and objectives and strategies.
6. Review the OHOP Plan, the Oregon HIV Client Services Comprehensive Plan, and the HIV Services Implementation Plan.
7. Stay informed about best practices and standards for providing housing to PLWH/A.
8. Be an “ambassador” to local housing plans in the members’ home community in order help educate local housing authorities about the issues of PLWH/A and housing, and to advocate for including HIV in the priorities for local funding.
9. Seek to be involved in local and statewide forums where HIV and housing issues should be articulated.

10. Provide a forum for promoting coordination, collaboration and linkage around issues of HIV and Housing.
11. Provide expertise, advise and recommendations to HIV Client Services.
12. Educate selves on HIV and housing issues.
13. Report to the Oregon HIV Care Coalition (OHCC) to keep the members of the coalition informed on the activities of Task Force. (The Task Force Co-Chairs are members of OHCC.)

2006 GOALS

FOCUS AREA: HISPANICS (including undocumented persons and farm workers)

Goal #1: Build stronger relationships between the OHOP program and Hispanic organizations providing services to the Hispanic community.

Goal #2: Identify specific activities to help overcome two identified housing barriers:

- Persons without Social Security numbers have difficulty moving from OHOP to long-term stable housing; and
- Persons without citizenship documentation have difficulty getting utilities turned on.

Goal #3: Recognize diversity and educate providers on language and cultural differences.

FOCUS AREA: EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING CLIENTS

Goal #1: Continue partnership with Fair Housing Council of Oregon in order to:

- Train Housing Coordinators and HIV Case Managers;
- Provide referral information for clients;
- Provide training opportunities for clients; and
- Provide updated information the Task Force on any changes in the Fair Housing Laws.

FOCUS AREA: READY TO RENT PROGRAMS

Goal #1: Find a resource inventory of rent readiness training programs and contacts throughout the state. Make the resource guide available to HIV Case Managers.

Goal #2: Develop life skills training opportunities for Title II clients statewide.

FOCUS AREA: RE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Goal #1: Develop a resource inventory of re-employment programs and contacts throughout the state. Make the resource guide available to HIV Case Managers.

Goal #2: Provide HIV education to workers in vocational rehabilitation, senior and disability services, and to local government representatives.

FOCUS AREA: HOMELESSNESS

Goal #1: Provide information and education about the “Housing First” model to OHOP and HIV Client Services program staff/management to assist in developing program policy that helps move the case management/care coordination components of both programs to the “three homes” concept for helping PLWH/A who are homeless.

Goal #2: Recruit a representative from “Beyond Shelter” and “ARCHES” to sit on the HIV Housing Task Force.

FOCUS AREA: CORRECTIONS

Goal #1: Provide information about OHOP/PIP and the HIV Case Management programs to:

- The Department of Corrections Advisory Committee;
- Corrections/jail personnel; and
- Transition planners in both systems.

Goal #2: Recruit a representative from the Department of Corrections and from a local jail to join the HIV Housing Task Force.

Goal #3: Participate in transition fairs.

FOCUS AREA: MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Goal #1: Develop a strategy to talk to the local county Health Administrators and/or the Mental Health Directors about participating in the conversation to develop the local County Implementation Plans.

Goal #2: Distribute information about the Priorities required by the local SAMHSA Block Grants that fund substantial amounts of money to local communities. Priorities: IDU, Pregnant Women, Women with children, Women. These clients move to the top of the waiting list for Mental Health and Substance Abuse services.

Goal #3: Develop a strategy to send representation to Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committees in target counties.

Goal #4: Present information on HIV & Housing to the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Goal #5: Send a representative to the OMHAS bi-weekly Community Briefing.

Goal #6: Pursue funding opportunities for HIV/SA/MH and Housing.

FOCUS AREA: Participate in Statewide Planning Processes

Goal #1: Educate the Task Force members on local consolidated planning processes.

Goal #2: Present to the Task Force on Statewide Consolidated Plan.