



2026 Oregon Legislative Session: What it Means for Homelessness Services

Impacts, Gaps, and What's Coming Next

**Multnomah County
Government Relations**

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Agenda

Discussion Today

- What actually changed in 2026
- Impacts on homelessness & related systems
- What this means for providers
- What to expect in 2027
- Q&A and discussion



Legislative Session Recap – Where We Started

Context Going Into 2026 Session

- State faced budget pressure → limited room for new investments
- Federal uncertainty affecting funding and policy direction
- Rising homelessness and eviction pressure across Oregon
- Competing priorities (transportation, economic issues, etc.)



Legislative Session Recap – Where Session Ended

Where session ended

- Budget stabilized with minimal cuts
- Some targeted investments (not system-changing)
- Continued funding for many programs—but little expansion
- Policy wins in specific areas (immigrant protections, etc.)
- Overall: stability, not expansion of the system



Key Policy Priorities Going Into Session

What Multnomah County Prioritized:

- Protect homelessness and safety net funding
- Expand housing supply and affordability
- Invest in behavioral health and addiction services
- Support community corrections



Human Services & Health Care

Economic Stability & Family Supports

- Some improvements to childcare access for low-income families
- Incremental changes—not major poverty reduction

Health Care & Behavioral Health

- Expanded preventive care coverage
- Gov. bill on behavioral health workforce
- Tobacco/nicotine regulation updates
- No major structural change to behavioral health system



Housing & Homelessness

Key Changes:

- \$100M for preserving affordable housing
- Tenant access protections (SB 1523 & HB 4037)
- Support for students experiencing homelessness (HB 4149)

Limited Movement:

- No expansion of eviction prevention funding
- No new large-scale homelessness response funding
- Continued tension around local control



Economy and Workforce

Economic Drivers of Homelessness

- Workforce programs expanded
- Economic development investments prioritized
- Limited direct relief for people at immediate risk of homelessness

State Budget

- Tax changes helped stabilize budget
- Avoided deeper cuts
- But limited room for new investments



Immigrant and Refugee Protections

Protections for Immigrant & Refugee Communities

- Stronger protections in schools (HB 4079) healthcare settings (SB 1570), and legal systems (HB 4111).
- Limits on data sharing (SB 1587) and enforcement interactions (HB 4138).



State Budget and County Impacts

Budget Adjustments and Investments for the 2026 Session

[HB 5204](#) [Passed] Makes changes in the approved 2025-2027 budget, including additional investments such as :

- \$8M – Universal representation
- \$1.9M – East Multnomah Outreach, Prevention, and Intervention (EMOPI) program
- \$10M – Regional infrastructure fund
- \$77M – Wildfire response

Reductions

- Approximately \$130 million in reductions across all state agencies and programs
- Includes rebalance for Oregon Health Authority



System Pressures

The reality:

- Rising homelessness and unsheltered population
- Evictions increasing
- Demand exceeding capacity
- Workforce strain and burnout

Policy Considerations:

- Housing production vs immediate need
- Prevention underfunded
- Behavioral health access still limited
- Providers expected to do more without stable funding



Looking Ahead to 2027

- Bigger policy session
- Funding debates will intensify with 27-29 budgets
- Likely focus on accountability and outcomes
- Housing vs services tension will continue
- Eviction prevention likely returns as key issue



Questions and Discussion

- What gaps are you seeing between policy and implementation?
- Where are service systems experiencing the most pressure?
- What should lawmakers understand going into 2027?



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