

Community Action Organization 1999 Legislative Priorities

Community Action Organization (CAO) is a private, non-profit organization addressing issues of poverty in Washington County. Jerralynn Ness is the Executive Director and can be reached at 503-693-3251 or jness@teleport.com. CAO is part of a larger network of community action agencies in Oregon and around the country. In Oregon, we have a 501(c) (4), non-profit association called the Community Action Directors of Oregon, or CADO. Jerry Bieberle serves as CADO's lobbyist and can be reached at 503-286-8807 or bieberle@europa.com. Community Action Organization in Washington County works collaboratively with CADO to address issues of poverty in Oregon.

CAO is interested in legislation that has an impact on low income people in Washington County, such as the rolling back of the minimum wage, agricultural unemployment insurance, earned income tax credit, childcare and the Oregon Health Plan. Our highest legislative priorities include *Head Start, homeless and housing assistance, protections for low-income energy customers and child care related issues*. The following is a description of the funding support CAO currently receives from the state to serve Washington County residents.

- **Head Start/State Pre-Kindergarten** - This fiscal year CAO received \$1,287,750 from the Department of Education to serve 202 three and four year old, low income and disabled children. The continuation and expansion of this funding is one of our highest priorities for this legislative session. Head Start continues to enjoy bi-partisan support and with education appearing to be a high priority for funding, we are hoping for some good outcomes in this area.
- **State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) and Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA)** Oregon Housing and Community Services Division contracts with Community Action Agencies around the state to develop collaborative, local responses to homelessness and its prevention. CAO received \$140,869 from SHAP and \$338,344 from EHA this biennium for support to our community network of homeless and housing service providers. These funds are critical to the financing of shelter for the homeless and housing assistance to low income residents in Washington County.
- **Child Nutrition** – This year, CAO received \$2,016,075 from the Department of Education's USDA funds to reimburse 420 family child care providers for their costs to provide nutritious meals to nearly 5,000 children in their care through our *ABC Soup Program*. This service ensures that these children receive a balanced meal, which improves their readiness to learn.
- **Childcare** – This year, CAO received \$38,000 from AFS to assist 1200 families receiving public assistance to obtain needed child care in order to work. This funds also helped to support our Metro Child Care Resource and Referral service, which linked parents with safe, affordable and convenient childcare so they could go to work with peace of mind. CAO received \$50,000 from the Child Care Division in the Department of Employment to support

the costs for 30 low income children to receive before and after school childcare in the Forest Grove and Banks school districts.

In addition, CAO supports the following legislative priorities established by CADO for the 1999 Oregon Legislative session:

- **Homeless Assistance and Emergency Housing** – To obtain a \$1,286,970 increase in the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) and a \$2,320,500 increase in the Emergency Housing Account (EHA).
- **Affordable Housing and the Trust Fund** – To support the proposal to appropriate \$160 million to the Housing Trust Fund.
- **Energy Deregulation** – To support the proposal for a meter charge (1 cent per day) on all electrical utilities to help fund a \$20 million annual energy assistance fund and a 3% public purpose charge that will result in \$8 million for low income weatherization.
- **State Support for Community Action Programs** – To obtain state funding for Community Action Organizations to support their expanding obligations to serve families leaving welfare in order to go to work.
- **Food and Nutrition** – To support the proposal to seek a \$2,000,000 increase in funding for food and nutrition programs, as well as recommendations from the Oregon Food Bank and the Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force.

s/admin/leg99pri

HOUSING ADVOCATES -- NEEDED IN SALEM -- APRIL 19th !

We've met. We've talked. We've written. We've displayed. We've worked. In order to get Oregon's Housing Crisis addressed by the State, Housing advocates from all over Oregon and every possible affiliation are needed to converge on the Legislature at our State Capitol on Monday, April 19th to ask "**What about Housing?!**" again. So here is Housing Lobby Day 2 !

Agenda

10 AM Sign-up & Organize
Capitol Bldg. Rm. 50

→ 11 AM Rally & Advocate Briefing
Capitol Steps or Rm. 50

Noon Lunch Together

8 - 4 PM Meetings w. Legislators

3 PM Debriefing - Rm. 50

**Please Bring a Car Load of Folks
with You to Salem.**

Legislative Priorities

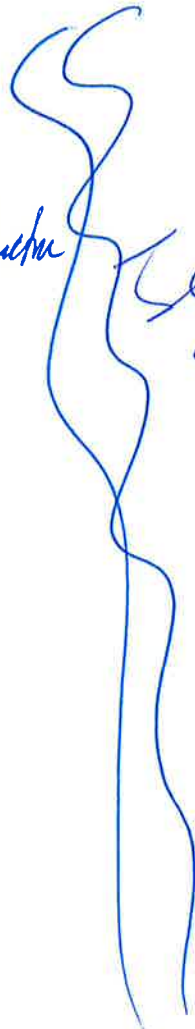
- ◆ Housing Trust Fund \$160 million
(or \$12.5 mil/yr.- Hous.Development)
- ◆ State Homeless Assistance Program &
Emerg. Housing Acct. \$3.6 million
- ◆ Local Community-based Development
Organization Capacity Building \$2 mil
- ◆ State Home Ownership Fund
\$1.5 million increase

**Make Appointments w. Your
Legislators, & Confirm Your
Attendance at (503) 223-4041.**

Max Williams - Tobacco Tax
for Housing Construction

Need Gen Fund to Cover

Starr -
Homeless Tax Credits



Senators -
There's a very
small group
going. I
can attend in
the AM up
until 2:00
Lobby