Fully fund the Healthy Homes program

Solving Oregon’s **housing crisis** is about more than building new housing, it’s also about keeping low-income families from losing their homes. When everyone in our community has a healthy home with affordable utility bills, it will contribute to **greater housing security for our most vulnerable Oregonians.**

Healthy Homes is an innovative Oregon program supporting essential home repairs and improvements to keep low-income families healthy, reduce energy bills and medical costs.

While initial funding for the program in 2021 was a good start, it **will run out** before the next budget cycle because there is so much need across the state. A legislative investment of **$15 million in 2024** will keep this critical program going.

About 49% of Oregonians live in housing built before 1980. This housing is energy inefficient and in need of repairs. **Frontline communities**, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and people in rural areas are at the highest risk.

**Healthy Homes will help Oregonians:**

- Spend less money on heating and cooling
- Have refuge from bad outdoor air such as wildfire smoke
- Experience fewer sick days and emergency room visits
- Live in more disaster-resilient homes
- Create good, local jobs in home retrofitting
- Keep seniors, low-income, and frontline families in their homes

---

Contact: Ana Molina, ana@ojta.org | Jennifer Williamson, jennifer@swiftpublicaffairs.com
Healthy Homes help lower the cost of living and increase comfort

An uninsulated home or a broken window lets frigid air or extreme summer heat inside. An expensive, polluting oil furnace won’t keep someone warm if they can’t afford to turn it on. The Healthy Homes program pays for repairs and replacements with high efficiency equipment and resilience improvements to make people comfortable and lower their cost of living.

Healthy Homes fills in the funding gaps

Federal, state, and utility assistance programs pay for some but not all of these repairs. For example, without funds for mold mitigation, a federally-funded heat pump alone would not make a home with a mold problem safer. A contractor or community-based organization may not be able to take on the project.

Healthy Homes funds vital repairs:

- Increased energy efficiency for lower utility bills and better comfort
- Radon, lead, allergens, and mold abatement
- Wildfire and air pollution filtration & air purification systems
- Structural improvements and repairs for accessibility
- Hardening against wildfire
- Earthquake resistance

Sustaining the Healthy Homes program is a top priority in 2024

- Included in the Fair Shot for All People’s Budget.
- An Oregon Just Transition Alliance priority.
- An Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) priority.

The Healthy Homes program was set up by bipartisan HB 2842 in 2021.