

# THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET

## FAIRSHOT FOR ALL

### **Prioritize the People**

Each year, our coalition creates the Fair Shot Priority Agenda and the People's Budget to provide Oregon legislators with a clear set of policy and funding priorities to advance racial, gender, and economic justice in our state. Despite harmful walkouts that threatened our families and communities, our legislative champions and supporters held strong to advance forward-thinking policies and investments. We are grateful to legislators for passing Fair Shot's 2023 priority agenda and for supporting many of the smart, community-led policies, programs, and workforce supports from the [2023 People's Budget](#).

While we celebrate our progress, we know that our communities are still bearing the brunt of the economic impacts of the pandemic and inflation. The high costs of housing, groceries, and bills affect all Oregonians, but not equally. A legacy of disinvestment has created economic disparities in our state that persist today for Black people, Indigenous people, people of color, women, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, and working families.

In the upcoming legislative session, Oregonians are counting on legislators to make meaningful progress on the state's toughest challenges through strategic investments of our growing budget surplus. There is more work to do to ensure every Oregonian has access to housing, child care, health care, food, and justice, and to strengthen our workforce. **The Fair Shot for All coalition is highlighting some of the most pressing unfinished business for this biennium from the 2023 People's Budget.**

By prioritizing these investments in economic, racial, and gender justice, we continue to strengthen our overall economy and create lasting prosperity for all Oregonians.

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Unfinished Business: Strategic investments to promote shared prosperity in Oregon

Priority	Estimated Investment	Description
<p>Housing and Rental Assistance</p> <p><i>Stable Homes for Oregon Families, Community Alliance of Tenants, Oregon Worker Relief, Urban League of Portland, Oregon Law Center</i></p>	<p>\$63M</p>	<p>As we work towards new production goals and to address homelessness, we must ensure that we turn off the spigot to the street.</p> <p>As our housing affordability crisis continues, more than 80% of all evictions happen because someone is behind on their rent. Each of these cases represents an Oregon household at risk of homelessness, and these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg – studies show that approximately five times the number of people in eviction court suffer displacement outside of Court.</p> <p>Rent assistance is the single most effective tool at preventing eviction and homelessness– making sure that landlords get paid and tenants stay housed. While legislators made important investments in 2023 to address the housing crisis, rent assistance programs were inadequately funded.</p> <p>Rent and other housing stability assistance programs by community-based and culturally-specific organizations and coalitions doing housing stability work are critical to reaching the Oregonians in every county in the state who are most vulnerable.</p> <p>Oregon should invest at least <b>\$45M in homelessness prevention rental assistance</b> and <b>\$10M to the Urban League</b> and <b>\$6M to Oregon Worker Relief Home Fund</b> to provide culturally specific housing stability programs that include rental</p>

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		<p>assistance and critical wrap-around services. In addition, <b>\$2 million</b> is needed for outreach and navigation services to help tenants living in expiring affordable housing units avoid homelessness.</p>
<p>Childcare for Oregon</p> <p><i>Family Forward Oregon, APANO, Unite Oregon, PCUN</i></p>	<p>\$150-225M</p>	<p>Oregon families and employers rely on the availability and accessibility of high-quality childcare in every corner of the state. However, federal dollars have been pulled back and Oregon's 23-25 biennium budget does not adequately fund this essential infrastructure. At the beginning of 2023 DELC's request for ERDC was \$250M, and the legislature allocated only \$23M.</p> <p>Oregon families have already been shut out of enrollment in Employment Related Day Care. These subsidies are critical for Oregon children and families, child care providers, and employers.</p> <p>Without investments in child care, parents must cut their working hours or quit their jobs to care for their kids. This has devastating impacts for all Oregonians, but especially for women of color, who are most impacted by the failures of our current system and who also disproportionately work as child care providers in our state.</p>
<p>Universal Representation</p> <p><i>Oregon Worker Relief</i></p>	<p>\$7.5M</p>	<p>Universal legal representation helps keep Oregon families and communities whole by safeguarding against unjust deportation. Without representation, immigrant Oregonians are more likely to be deported, regardless of the merits of their case.</p> <p>One in eight workers in Oregon is an immigrant, making up a vital part of the state's</p>

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		<p>labor force. Oregon employers bear the high turnover costs of hiring, training, and lost productivity when their employees are unnecessarily detained and deported.</p> <p>One in 15 children in Oregon live with a family member who is undocumented. If a family's breadwinner is deported, family members face housing and food insecurity and children must cope with the incredible trauma of family separation, with long-lasting psychological impacts. Children's school attendance and performance are also negatively affected, increasing their likelihood of dropping out and earning significantly less as adults.</p> <p>Legislators can build upon the success of the 2022 Universal Representation bill by investing \$7.5M to maintain Equity Corps of Oregon, the statewide collaborative of community-based organizations, nonprofits, and attorneys that provides no-cost immigration legal services.</p>
<p>Climate Change Fund</p> <p><i>Oregon Worker Relief, PCUN, Oregon Law Center</i></p>	<p>\$9M</p>	<p>Oregonians increasingly face extreme heat waves, wildfires, and unhealthy air, but the dangers of the climate crisis are not evenly distributed.</p> <p>Agricultural workers are often forced to work in dangerous smoke and heat because they cannot afford to miss out on what are already extremely low wages. Many of Oregon's agricultural workers are immigrants, Indigenous, or Latinx and low-income and do essential work including farming, tree-planting, dairying, raising livestock, food processing, and nursery work.</p>

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		<p>Prioritizing relief to the members of our communities who are most impacted is key to developing an equitable response to climate disasters.</p> <p>The Climate Change Fund by Oregon Worker Relief provides financial assistance to agriculture workers when extreme heat or smoke pollution prevents them from working so they can take care of themselves and their families.</p> <p>The Climate Change Fund's initial funding was quickly distributed to 9,569 agricultural workers in 34 counties. We urge legislators to invest in the Climate Change Fund in 2024 to protect workers from climate extremes. This investment plays a crucial role in supporting agricultural workers in Oregon who contribute to the nourishment and wellbeing of our state.</p>
Restorative Justice <i>Restorative Justice Coalition of Oregon</i>	\$4M	<p>Restorative justice is a survivor-centered approach to accountability that focuses on promoting healing for those who have been harmed and on fostering true internal accountability for those who have caused harm.</p> <p>This community-based approach to harm serves as an alternative to prosecution. Restorative justice thereby creates a mechanism for relieving the pressure on Oregon's overburdened court and public defense systems and reducing the state's reliance on incarceration, while also making communities safer.</p> <p>In 2021, the Oregon legislature allocated \$4 million to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) to develop the Restorative Justice</p>

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		<p>Grant Program.</p> <p>This led to eight programs serving over thirteen counties receiving funding to initiate and/or expand restorative services. In the 2024 session, the Oregon Legislature has the opportunity to allow these programs to continue by appropriating \$4 million for this critical program.</p>
<p>School Based Health Centers</p>	<p>\$8.2M for programming</p> <p>\$10M for capital construction</p>	<p>School-based health centers (SBHCs) in Oregon deliver quality, affordable, cost-effective health care to young people and function like a doctor's office located on school grounds. They offer a range of medical and health services, enjoy broad community support, and help keep kids healthier, in school, and ready to learn. Investments in SBHCs benefit schools, families, communities, and serve thousands of Oregon youth every year.</p> <p>Many young people in Oregon still lack adequate access to the health care they need — and mental health care in particular — due to stigma, a lack of health insurance, an insurance policy with limited coverage, a lack of understanding about how to access care, poor access to transportation (especially in rural areas), and a lack of medical providers providing care under the Oregon Health Plan. SBHCs address each of these barriers by providing all school-aged youth with the care they need, whether they have private insurance, public assistance, or no insurance.</p> <p>In 2024, legislators can increase the availability of mental health services statewide by investing \$18.2M in our vital SBHCs. Mental health services embedded within school-based health centers create a continuum of integrated care that</p>

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		improves children’s mental health, physical health, and educational attainment.
<p>Student Emergency Package</p> <p><i>Oregon Student Association, Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon, Basic Needs Oregon, Open Oregon Educational Resources, Swipe Out Hunger</i></p>	\$6M	<p>College and university students in Oregon are reporting increased rates of food insecurity, housing instability, and challenges affording and accessing textbooks, transportation, childcare, and other basic needs.</p> <p>In 2021, the Oregon State Legislature took a critical step in addressing student basic needs insecurities by passing HB 2835, the Benefits Navigator Bill. This legislation was designed to close opportunity gaps and facilitate economic mobility by increasing access to federal, state, and local benefits for low income students at community colleges and public universities.</p> <p>The 2024 Student Emergency Needs Package is a bipartisan, student-centered effort to support Oregon’s Basic Needs Navigators and Textbook Affordability Program with \$6 million dollars in one-time, emergency funding.</p> <p>This policy will further support the legislature’s work of addressing students basic needs and textbook affordability by allowing every institution to pinpoint the programs/solutions that work best for their student body to better access housing, food, clothing, technology, textbooks, transportation and other student needs.</p>
<p>Universal Healthcare Governance Board</p> <p><i>Healthcare for All Oregon</i></p>	\$0.5M	A significant barrier to advance so many issues related to racial, gender, and economic justice is the current system’s complexity and inequitable access to health care. This is why

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		<p>we need universal healthcare.</p> <p>In the 2023 Legislative Session, SB1089 established the Universal Health Plan Governance Board to put Oregon on a path to realizing the recently codified constitutional right to health care. The Universal Health Plan Governance Board will design a detailed, publicly funded, single payer universal health care system for recommendation to the Oregon Legislature for implementation to start as soon as 2027.</p> <p>The legislature should continue the immediate work of the Universal Healthcare Governance Board with an additional \$500,000 this biennium. This funding will help create and develop the positions and systems needed to work with the public, employers, and other stakeholders to achieve success.</p>
<p>Healthy Homes</p> <p><i>Oregon Just Transition Alliance, APANO, Verde, Community Energy Project, and Climate Solutions</i></p>	<p>\$15M</p>	<p>54% of Oregonians live in housing built before 1978 that is energy-inefficient and in need of repairs and weatherproofing.</p> <p>Families with low incomes, families living in rural and tribal communities, and individuals that identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color are the most at risk due to decades of redlining and other discriminatory practices. Consequently, these communities are most harmed by sick days and hospital visits caused by mold, cold weather, and the inability to take refuge from bad outdoor air quality.</p> <p>The 2021 Oregon Legislature enacted groundbreaking legislation to help achieve</p>



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		<p>Healthy Homes for low-income households and communities impacted by environmental justice factors. The Healthy Homes program provides grants to trusted nonprofits to provide financial assistance to eligible homeowners and landlords to repair and rehabilitate dwellings to address climate and other environmental hazards, ensure accessible homes for disabled residents, and make general repairs needed to maintain a safe and healthy home.</p> <p>Funding for Healthy Homes is expected to run out in 2024. Oregon should build on its initial investment from 2021 to make sure that all Oregonians can be healthy in their homes.</p>
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**Fair Shot for All** is an economic justice coalition of grassroots organizations and labor unions across the state who work together to create opportunities for all working families to thrive, build power with our communities, and dismantle historic and systemic economic inequities in our state. We are organized across race, class, and gender and center those of us who have been impacted most: Oregonians who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and/or people of color; LGBTQ+; women; and/or working class families. There is incredible strength in our numbers and our fierce belief in the future we are fighting for.