

# Aligning Housing & Workforce Systems



## Economic Opportunity Program Rent Assistance & Housing Program Results



Portland  
Housing  
Bureau



HumanSolutions



*Research and experience shows us the single most important factor that determines the long-term success of networks and collaborative efforts of all kinds is not strategy, structure, systems, or technology, but rather the quality and strength of the relationships that develop between its members.*

– David Sawyer & Nick Viele, *Converge for Impact*

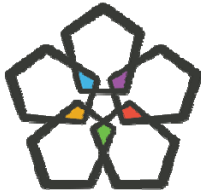
# Economic Opportunity Program (EOP)



- Serves very low income residents of City of Portland and Multnomah County (up to 50% AMI)
- Provides career-track training and employment services as a means to economic opportunity and housing stability
- Connects the work of community-based providers with services and resources of the public workforce system (WorkSource Portland Metro Centers)

# Economic Opportunity Program (EOP) Funding Partners

## Program Funders:



PROSPER  
PORTLAND

Building an Equitable Economy

## Rent Assistance Funders:



## With funding from:

- City of Portland
- Multnomah County
- State of Oregon
- US Dept of Labor
- US Dept of Housing and Urban Development
- US Dept of Health and Human Services
- US Dept of Agriculture

## Program and Rent Assistance Funders:



MULTNOMAH  
COUNTY



Portland  
Housing  
Bureau



# EOP Career Coaching Provider Partners

- **Participants work on their Career Plan goals with a Career Coach at a local non-profit:**
  - Central City Concern (CCC)
  - Constructing Hope
  - El Programa Hispano Católico (EPHC)
  - Human Solutions (HSI)
  - Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)
  - Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.
  - Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)
  - SE Works
  - Self Enhancement, Inc. (SEI)
  - Urban League
- **AHFE funds allowed EOP to expand to dedicate career coaches to serving homeless and housing insecure individuals at: POIC, CCC, IRCO, EPHC, HSI, SEI, and Urban League.**
- **Over the last 3 years, EOP has served more than 1500 participants, with about 500 active at one time. About 70% exit the program with a job.**



# EOP Model

## Preparation

- Career Mapping and Career Plan
- Basic Skills Education
- Soft Skills

## Training

- Occupational
- Work Experience
- Internships
- On -the-Job- Training (OJT)

## Employment

- Job Search Assistance
- Job Placement

## CAREER COACHING

STABILIZATION

SUPPORTS

PLACEMENT

RETENTION

ADVANCEMENT

# Rent Assistance for EOP Participants

- EOP Participants experiencing housing instability not able to complete training or job search.
- Home Forward committed \$125,000 in the 1st year. Total of \$475,000 committed in the 2nd year from Home Forward, Portland Housing Bureau and A Home for Everyone.
- Rent Assistance is for homeless placements and eviction prevention.
- 169 total served in first 2 years



# Rent Assistance HUB

CC Refers  
Participants to  
RAC

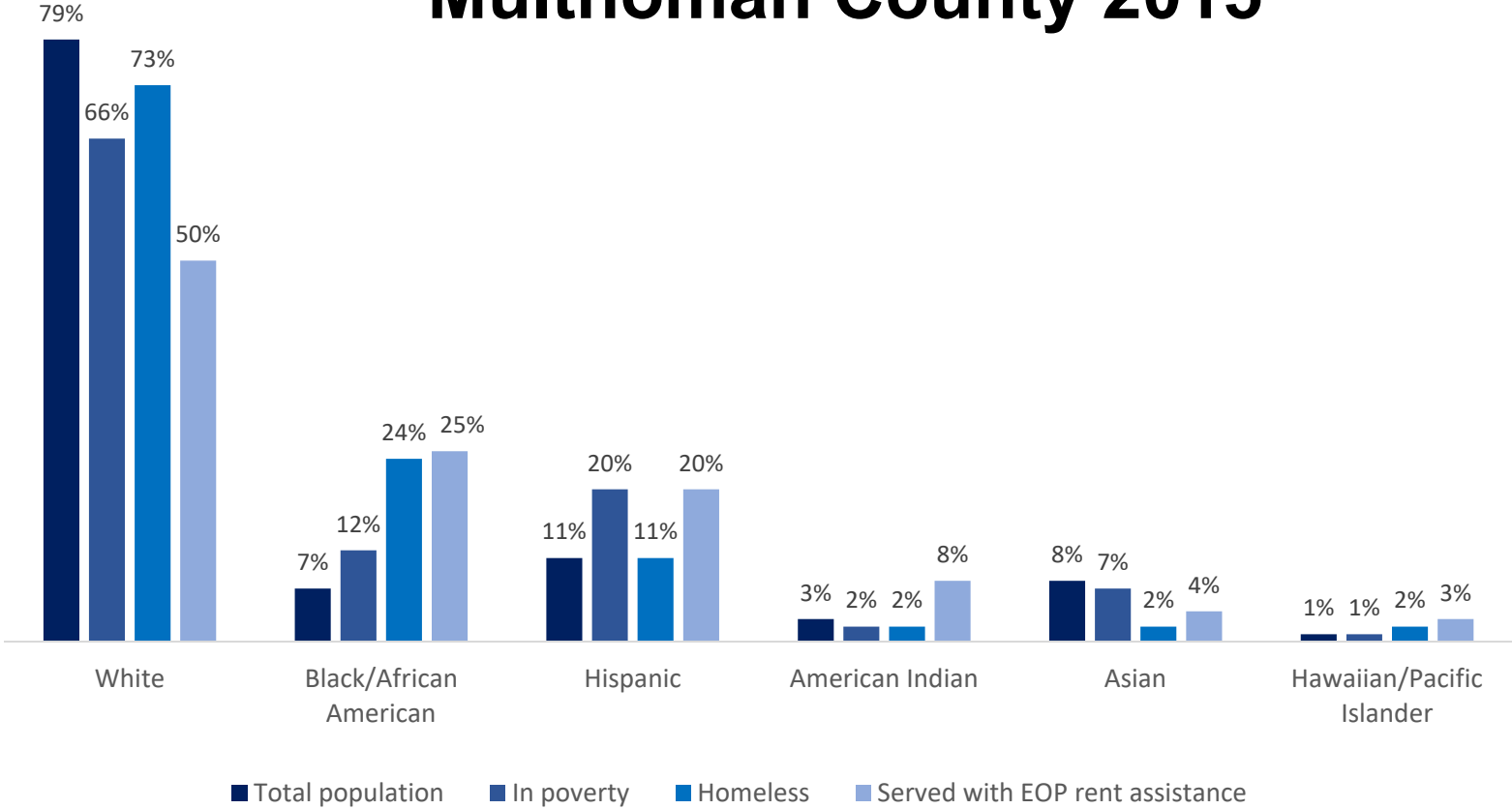
RAC, Participant,  
and CC hold joint  
intake meeting

RAC helps  
participant find  
housing and/or  
pays rent

CC = Career Coach

RAC = Rent Assistance Coordinator

# Proportional share of population by Race/Ethnicity Multnomah County 2015

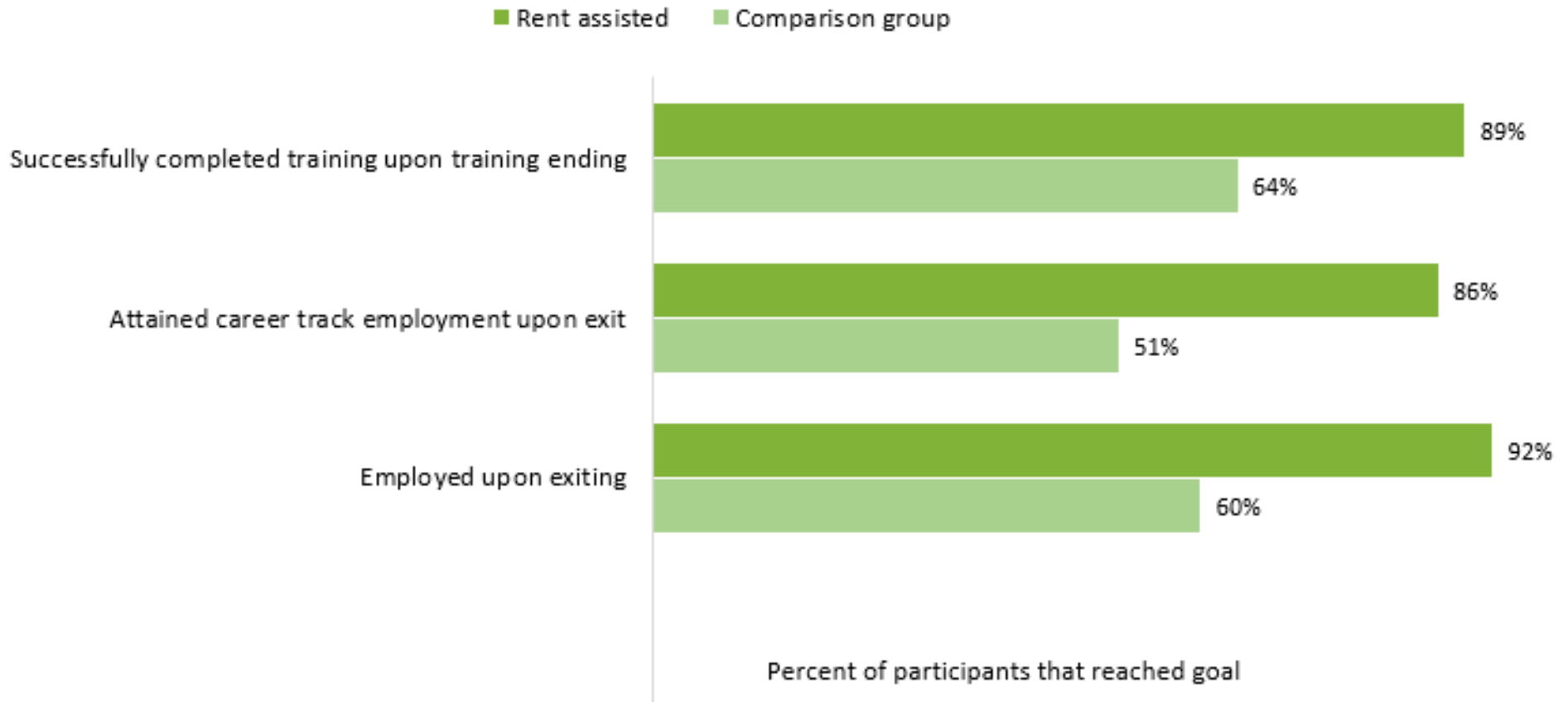


More EOP rent assistance recipients are people of color than in the homeless population. 60% are persons of color.





# Employment & Training Outcomes



Participants who received rent assistance were:

- 38% more likely to complete training
- 67% more likely to attain career track employment at exit
- 53% more likely to be employed at exit

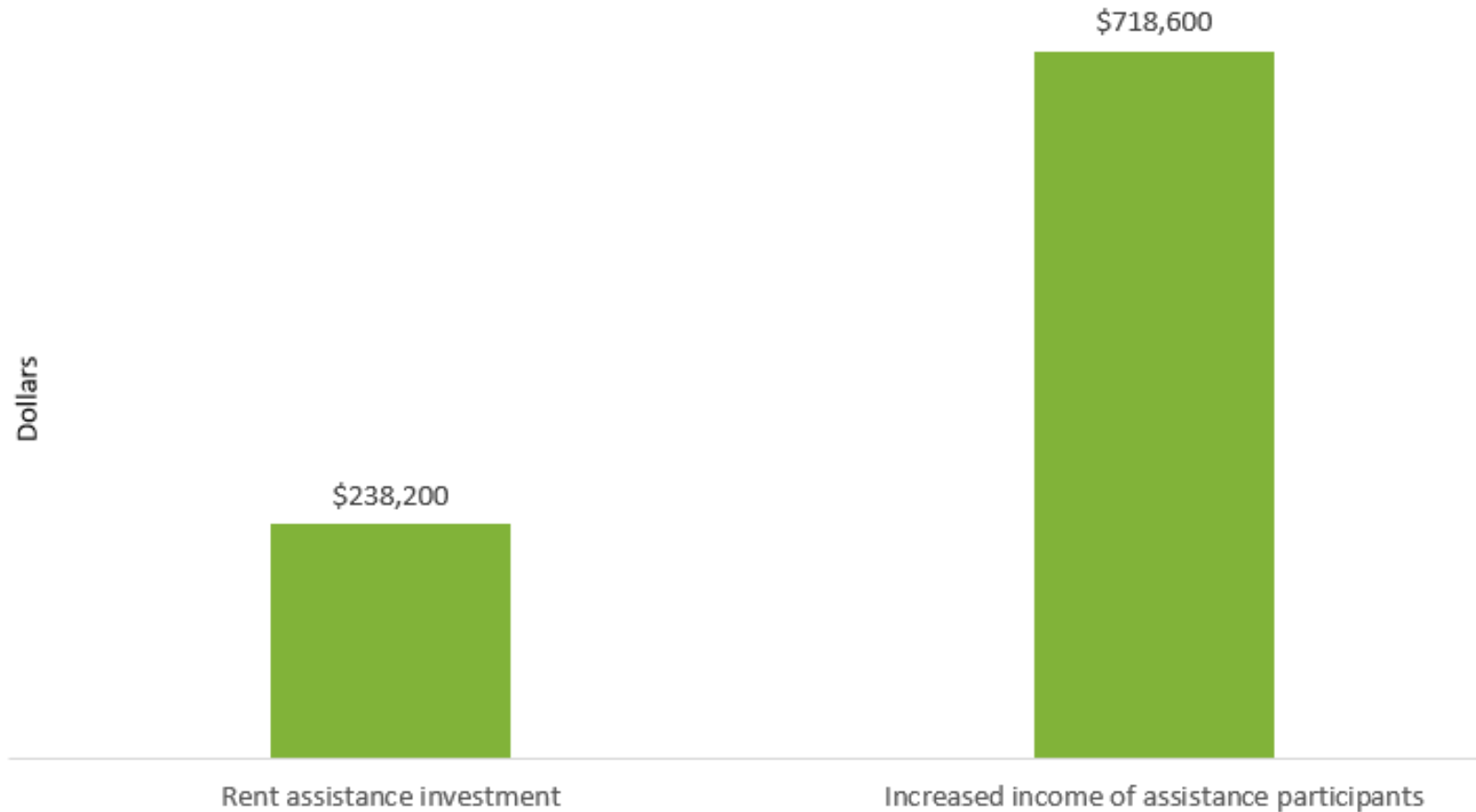
# Earned Income



EOP rent assistance recipients increased their income by double the rate of the comparison group.



# Return on Investment



Rent assistance recipients' increased incomes more than tripled rent assistance investments.



# Systems Alignment

Rent Assistance for EOP participants:

- Increased participant success
- Created greater returns on investment for public funds through increases in income

Employment Services for homeless and housing insecure:

- Prevented and ended homelessness: 70% remained housed 12 months after their rent assistance ended
- Participant economic stability allows them to be self-sufficient and create room for others in need to access housing services.



# EOP Rent Assistance Recipient Testimony