



2026 Supportive Housing Institute

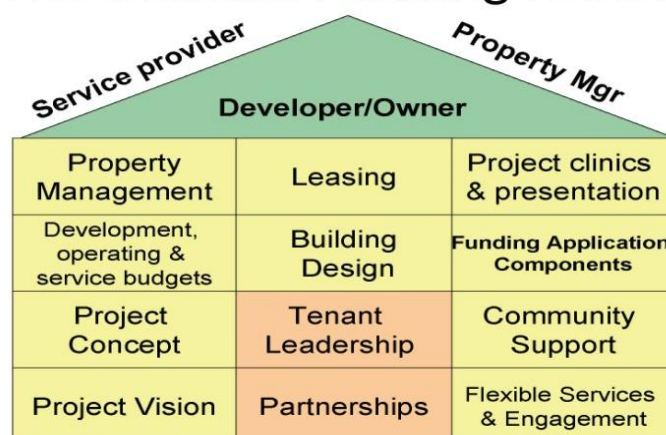
Request for Applications

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) are excited to announce the seventh Oregon Supportive Housing Institute (“Institute”). The 2026 Institute will help supportive housing partners learn how to navigate the complex process of developing housing with support services and reduce the time it takes to obtain funding for permanent supportive housing (PSH) by improving the planning, development, and initial project implementation process. The Institute will have a primary focus on building the capacity of housing developers and service providers to serve populations experiencing chronic homelessness throughout Oregon.

The CSH Institute has a strong record of accomplishment across the country, with graduates experiencing an over 80% success rate in bringing projects into operation. The Institute will provide training and technical assistance to both new-to-PSH and experienced development teams. Teams receive intensive training over 4 months, including individualized technical assistance and support to assist in planning quality PSH projects. CSH subject matter experts from across the state and the country, in partnership with local expertise, will provide insight on coordinating services and property management, financing, funding, trauma-informed design, and building a culture where everyone belongs.

The Oregon Supportive Housing Institute, established in 2019, is made possible by OHCS. Thanks to the support of OHCS and their commitment to supportive housing, the Institute is offered free of charge to participants.

The Institute Building Blocks



About CSH

CSH has been the national leader in supportive housing for over 30 years. We have worked in 47 states to help create stable, permanent homes for individuals and families. This housing has transformed the lives of over 200,000 people who once lived in abject poverty, on our streets, and/or in institutional settings. A nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), CSH has earned a reputation as a highly effective, financially stable organization with strong partnerships across government, community organizations, foundations, and financial institutions. Our loans and grants totaling over \$600 million have been instrumental in developing supportive housing in every corner of the country. Through our resources and knowledge, CSH is advancing innovative solutions that use housing as a platform for services to improve lives, maximize public resources, build healthy communities and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Visit us at csh.org to learn more.

About PSH

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a best practice and proven strategy to successfully house people experiencing chronic homelessness. Members of these households often live with disabling conditions including mental illness and substance use, alongside of their experience of long-term homelessness. PSH, often called the “three-legged stool”, provides a permanent housing unit, long term rent subsidy, and wraparound, intensive services. Oregon Housing and Community Services’ (OHCS) PSH Program offers three resources to create this “stool” for our PSH partners to best serve households experiencing chronic homelessness. These resources include development capital for the construction of PSH units, flexible PSH services funding, and project-based rental assistance. PSH is for people who have a long-term need for a high level of services and ongoing rent assistance. PSH must be affordable to households with extremely low incomes and must provide pre-tenancy services, housing retention support and other wraparound services that fit tenants’ individual needs. PSH services are designed to effectively support communities’ most vulnerable populations in reaching long-term housing stability.

PSH supports the basic idea that everyone is ready for housing regardless of the complexity or the severity of their needs. This entails:

- The housing in supportive housing is affordable, permanent, and independent. The services are comprehensive, flexible, tenant-driven, voluntary, and housing-based.
- This low-barrier approach aims to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions or barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.
- Diverse system partnerships (e.g. health, housing, justice) are key to delivering comprehensive services in supportive housing.

About OHCS and Permanent Supportive Housing

OHCS is Oregon’s state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income. OHCS administers, among other things, federal and state antipoverty, homelessness, energy assistance, and community services programs. OHCS also administers

other affordable housing programs as well as efforts to increase capacity throughout Oregon to address the need for safe, sanitary, and habitable affordable housing. It also administers bond, tax credit, and other financial assistance programs designed to assist in the purchase-financing of single-family homes and in the new construction or rehabilitation of multifamily affordable housing developments.

The Permanent Support Housing (“PSH”) policy priority of the OHCS 5-year Statewide Housing Plan set an ambitious goal to fund the creation of 1,000 PSH homes in five years. OHCS has surpassed this goal and is continuing to invest in PSH for communities across Oregon. OHCS has established a PSH Initiative which includes intensive training and technical assistance to build PSH development and operational teams (“Development and Operational Teams”) ready to deliver this housing across Oregon. **This RFA is to select PSH Development and Operational Teams to participate in the PSH Institute (“Technical Assistance Training Cohort”) which could lead to a resource commitment of PSH capital awards, rental assistance, and services funding.**

Projects that have been created through a PSH Institute, meet programmatic standards, and demonstrate evidence of viability will receive funding preference in OHCS’ funding processes via the Oregon Centralized Application (ORCA). Learn more about OHCS’ PSH Program here: <https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/development/Pages/permanent-supportive-housing.aspx>.

Institute Benefits

Upon completion, participants in the Institute will have:

- A detailed, individualized supportive housing plan that can be used to apply for funding from multiple sources;
- Improved skills to create and operate existing supportive housing and develop new projects serving people who experience multiple barriers to housing;
- New and improved skills to operate 100% and integrated supportive housing;
- A strong, effective development, property management, and service team that leverages the strengths of each team member;
- A powerful network of peers and experts to assist in project development and to trouble-shoot problems; and,
- Post Institute technical assistance from CSH.

Institute Supportive Practices

While in the Institute, teams will work to develop individual supportive housing project plans. CSH supports teams to complete the following during their time in the Institute:

- [Quality Supportive Housing Standards](#);
- [Supportive Housing Quality Toolkit](#);
- A written agreement among members of the team outlining the roles and responsibilities of each partner;
- A community engagement plan;

- Detailed program and project concepts including conditions of tenancy, plan for supportive services for tenants, and engagement strategies designed for specific target populations;
- A tenant selection plan using OHCS-provided template (utilizing a coordinated entry process);
- A preliminary project budget; and
- Additional items Agency may request in coordination with CSH.

Focus Population

Different highly impacted populations exist within the experience of chronic homelessness that benefit from PSH; including but not limited to:

- Aging Adults
- Child Welfare Involved Families
- Individuals with Physical Disabilities
- Individuals with Intellectual and Development Disabilities
- Individuals with Substance Use Disorder
- Justice Involved individuals
- Transition Age Youth (ages ~14-24)

Eligible Teams

Teams will be composed of five to six members. Eligible teams must include the following roles:

- An experienced housing developer
- A representative from a supportive services organization who will provide PSH Services [“supportive services” (note, the PSH Services provider organization must currently serve households experiencing homelessness or have supportive housing experience)]
- An experienced rental housing property management partner
- The project’s owner (can be one of the above roles)

Teams are encouraged to include a member with lived expertise, for example a Peer Support Specialist. Teams that integrate lived expertise representation show a commitment to tenant-led PSH. Each team must designate a team leader. Some or all these team members may be employed by the same organization if different people represent different team roles. If two different team members represent different team roles, both must participate (e.g. a Property Manager and a Service Provider may work for the same agency, but they both must participate to have required role representation). Each will bring their own perspective to an Institute team.

Additional team members may include but are not limited to: healthcare/CCO partner, Continuum of Care (CoC) representative, trauma-informed architect, or other local partners relevant to project planning and implementation.

Please note:

1. Applicants may apply without having identified all their team members but must agree to work with the OHCS and CSH to identify these partners by the start of the Institute.
2. To be eligible for the Institute, all team members must be able to attend all required training sessions offered (see training timeline pg.7); and commit to taking the team's project concept from idea to completion with the goal of having operational, quality PSH units.

Eligible Supportive Housing Projects

This Request for Applications (RFA) is the method in which PSH development and operational Teams will be selected to participate in the Institute. All PSH projects are eligible to apply. Rural and Tribal led project concepts will be prioritized for the 2026 Institute (please see addendum on pg. 10 for definitions).

The Institute is designed specifically to support the creation of projects where:

- Housing is permanent and affordable where tenants hold leases and acceptance of services is not a condition of occupancy; and
- Comprehensive case management services are accessible by tenants where they live and are provided in a manner designed to maximize tenant stability and self-sufficiency; and
- Communities most in need of housing and services are served by organizations and collaborations representative of the community need.

Reservation of Development Capital Resources

It is the goal of the OHCS PSH Initiative to support the implementation of PSH within each of the categories below. To do so, OHCS intends to select projects proposed by Teams selected through this RFA that intend to serve those experiencing chronic homelessness using regional coordinated entry systems and fulfill at least one component of the categories below:

Rural Projects	Urban Projects
100% PSH units	100% PSH units
Integrated PSH units	Integrated PSH units

While participation in the Institute does not guarantee funding, Teams that participate in the Institute are eligible to apply for OHCS' PSH development capital, rental assistance, and services funding. OHCS will preference projects that have participated in the Institute and are intending to serve those experiencing chronic homelessness through coordinated entry. Please note, OHCS PSH funding may not be available for application immediately after the Institute if PSH Resources are fully allocated by September 2026.

Selection

To enable CSH and its partners to provide an appropriate level of technical assistance, the 2026 Institute will be limited to up to 8 teams. Consideration will be given to demonstrated need, quality of the response to the application, and experience serving high need populations. Selection is based on a competitive process. Applicants should be mindful in responding to all requirements of the applications.

To be eligible for the Institute, applicants must be able to commit to attending ALL training sessions. It is critical to the success of each team that key senior management staff consistently participate in all sessions. The Institute will consist of 7 training days in person, and 2 virtual training days - see the 2026 Institute Schedule on pg. 8. Trainings highlight various external perspectives such as tenant voice, trauma-informed building design, finance and coordinating services and property management. Most sessions will include dedicated group work time, with technical assistance available from CSH staff. The Institute will conclude with final presentations (hosted virtually) whereby Institute participants present their projects to a group of local and statewide agencies and other interested parties, including OHCS.

If your team/participating agencies have already attended the Institute, other teams may be given preference.

Scoring Criteria

Each question must be answered, or no score will be given to the Applicant for that question. Each answer must immediately follow the question to which it applies to receive a score. When answering a question, the full answer must be provided immediately below the question. Do not reference another document or the answer to another question in lieu of fully answering a particular question. Points will be awarded by a CSH Evaluation review team, which will include OHCS representation, based upon its judgment as to the degree to which Applicants clearly and completely demonstrate their ability with respect to the following categories:

Project Concept: 27 points	
5 points	Description of project's plan for services [supportive services]
5 points	How low-barrier principles relate to the project concept
5 points	How the project includes culturally specific organizations or programs, or other deliberate measures responsive of community need
5 points	How project will partner with appropriate health and service providers, local government, local Public Housing Authority and other public systems (e.g., justice, health systems, homeless system, child welfare and/or others, including connection to Continuum of Care (CoC) Program).
5 points	How tenant voice is incorporated and/or represented in the project, including if teams are including people with lived expertise on project and program design. Provide examples of measures that ensure the project/program best supports the focus population.
2 points	Project is located in a rural and/or Tribal area

Project Readiness & Accessibility: 8 points	
3 points	Evidence of Site Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 points: Applicant has secured site control (deed, long term lease, purchase and sales agreement, or option) that won't expire during the Institute • 2 points: Applicant's site control is expiring before the end of the Institute • 1 point: Applicant has identified site and is working towards site control • 0 points: No site identified
5 points	Accessibility of location, and/or demonstrated planning to ensure service access for future residents. If no location is known at the time of application, project team prioritizes location accessibility in site selection.
Need for Project: 10 points	
5 points	Focus population and need for PSH units;
5 points	Corresponding analysis how the project will serve community need, including people overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness.
Team Experience & Capacity: 5 points	
5 points	Individual team members' PSH experience and how it relates to this project; if project team does not have experience with PSH, describe other relevant experience, and how a commitment to PSH supports the implementation of this housing project and supportive programming. Specifically describe how project team and or representing organizations are representative of the focus population.
Total Eligible: 50 points	

2026 Supportive Housing Institute Curriculum and Timeline

Timeline/Location

The 2026 Institute will be held from May to August 2026, with seven in-person training days and two virtual training days, including a virtual project reveal/final presentation. CSH is dedicated to hosting all in-person events in a safe and productive environment and will follow CDC guidelines. Should the situation require switching to virtual events, we will contact the cohort with information regarding the revised schedule and training logistics.

For those travelling long distances, OHCS reimbursement for mileage and lodging will be allowable.

2026 SCHEDULE	HOST	TRAINING TOPICS
Day 1 May 19	IN PERSON	Introduction to the Institute and Housing First
Day 2 May 20	IN PERSON	Quality Supportive Housing and Project Visioning
Day 3 May 21	IN PERSON	Operations in the First Year and Building Community Support
Day 4 June 23	IN PERSON	Support Services and Coordination
Day 5 June 24	IN PERSON	Property Management and Services Coordination
Day 6 July 28	IN PERSON	Financing Part 1: Service Budgets
Day 7 July 29	IN PERSON	Financing Part 2: Operating and Capital Budgets
Day 8 August 18	VIRTUAL	Trauma Informed Design & Tenant Voice; Final Presentation Run-Through
Day 9 August 19	VIRTUAL	PROJECT REVEAL: Final Presentations to Local and Statewide Partners 10 a.m. to noon on Zoom

TRAINING TOPICS MAY CHANGE BASED ON FINAL TEAM SELECTION.

In-person locations and duration of each training day will be communicated to the cohort closer to Institute start. In-person sessions are expected to be held in Eugene (and/or Portland) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for lunch. On virtual training days, participants should expect to be engaged with the Institute from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a break for lunch.

Application Instructions

Application Deadline: Friday, March 6th, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PST.

Submission of an application represents a commitment for the team to attend all Institute sessions. The application must be completed in its entirety. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The Application Review Team will evaluate all proposals and notify applicants of their selection in early April.

Submission: Submit an electronic copy of the application and the attachments in PDF form to CSH by email to: lori.gutierrez@csh.org. You will receive a confirmation that your application has been received; if you do not receive confirmation of receipt *within 24 hours* from sending, please send an email to lori.gutierrez@csh.org.

Questions: If you have questions about this application, please contact:

Lori Gutierrez
CSH, Senior Program Manager
lori.gutierrez@csh.org

If you have questions for OHCS, please submit them via email to HCS.PSH@oregon.gov

An informational webinar will be held on Wednesday February 11th, 2026 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. PST for prospective respondents to this application. Click [here](#) for the webinar appointment. Recordings of completed informational webinars can be found [here](#). Please contact Lori Gutierrez lori.gutierrez@csh.org with any questions regarding the webinar.

Addendum

Rural: Census tracts with less than 64 housing units per square mile, not in a large central metro county as defined by National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).

Tribe or Tribal: A federally recognized Native American Tribe or Indian Tribe in Oregon, as defined in ORS 182.162, or related to the same.

Tribal-led Project: A project that is sponsored by a Tribe, a Tribally Designated Housing Entity, or an organization owned by a Tribe