

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 05-108

Opposing Reductions in Federal Support for Housing

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Some Multnomah County clients – people with low incomes who have disabilities, frail elderly, homeless families, ex-offenders and others – are reliant on low rent housing in order to survive.
- b. When those clients are housed, the public saves money on emergency services, health costs, and public safety.
- c. The Federal Reserve Bank ranks Oregon 48th among states in rental affordability. This lack of affordable rentals often results in some Oregon households being forced to make horrible choices between paying for rent and utilities or paying for necessities such as food, clothing and medicine.
- d. American Housing Survey Data shows that Multnomah County is short 17,276 rental units for people from 0-30% of Median Family Income, and estimates that 82% of all households in the Metro region earning less than 30% of Median Family Income are in need of affordable housing.
- e. The FY 2005-06 Federal Budget proposals submitted by the White House and the U.S. Congress would make significant cuts to housing related programs including Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, and Public Housing that provide housing affordable to our most economically vulnerable community members.
- f. Additionally, the White House and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have submitted legislation entitled the State and Local Housing Flexibility Act of 2005 that would drastically change how HUD programs operate. Such legislation would significantly reduce the number of households below 30% of Median Family Income (MFI) who benefit from public housing. The current requirement that at least 75% of Section 8 vouchers must go to households with incomes below 30% MFI would change to a policy that would allow up to 90% of vouchers to go to households with incomes up to 60% of MFI.
- g. Reductions in federal housing funding for FY 2004-05 have already caused the Housing Authority of Portland to raise the income percentage a voucher recipient must pay resulting in rental cost increases of up to 17%.

- h. Multnomah County residents depend heavily on the invaluable assistance that the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, and Public Housing programs provide.

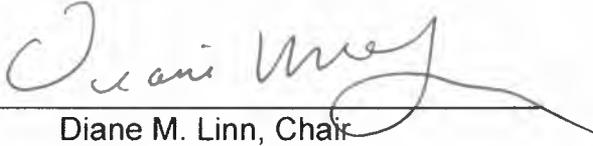
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. Multnomah County opposes the reductions to federal funding for housing as proposed by the White House and U.S. Congress, and housing assistance program policy changes in the State and Local Housing Flexibility Act of 2005.

ADOPTED this 9th day of June 2005.



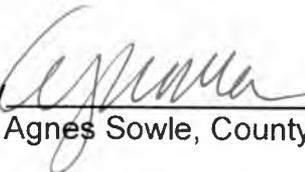
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Agnes Sowle, County Attorney