

Metro FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

“Oregon is leading the way in the mass timber movement, thanks in part to the support of elected leaders like Senator Merkley,” **said Port of Portland Executive Director Curtis Robinhold.** “With investments in infrastructure, we can take this work to the next level at our Mass Timber and Housing Innovation Campus at Terminal 2 – creating good-paying jobs and expanding housing options for Oregonians, using materials that can be sourced right here in our own backyard.”

“Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of our community with their support for Portland Fire & Rescue’s Community Health Overdose Response Program,” **said Portland Mayor Keith Wilson.** “Securing this funding will help save lives by improving emergency response times and expanding access to healthcare for individuals and communities in need.”

“We are grateful for Senators Wyden and Merkley’s steadfast commitment to supporting the wellbeing of Oregon’s youth and their continued advocacy for the Ballmer Institute’s efforts to expand the child behavioral health workforce. This funding will make it easier for Oregon families to access high-quality child behavioral health care directly from their pediatrician’s office,” **said Katie McLaughlin, Executive Director, The Ballmer Institute for Children’s Behavioral Health, University of Oregon.**

“Today marks a pivotal moment for mental health and addiction recovery in Oregon. We at the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHA AO) are profoundly grateful for the passage of the Senate Bill, which has secured essential funding for the MHA AO Recovery Campus. This vital support will allow us to provide peer recovery services to thousands of individuals each year. This funding stands as a testament to our collective commitment to ensure that hope, healing and recovery are accessible and available throughout Oregon and beyond,” **said Janie Gullickson, Executive Director & Tara McCarthy, Development Director, MHA AO.**

“We are grateful for the efforts of Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley to support the redevelopment of the Clara Vista apartments in the Cully neighborhood,” **said Portland Mayor Keith Wilson.** “This important funding would help the City of Portland preserve 108 units and culturally-specific services, as well as create new opportunities for additional affordable housing on the existing site.”

“The work we do is inherently rooted in a fundamental promise: the idea that all of us deserve to lay claim to the word “home”. The Albina Vision Trust is inspired by the consistent courage, strength and unfailing leadership of Senators Wyden and Merkley, who have secured \$1.5 million in Congressionally directed funding to catalyze the most transformative housing development in the history of our state. Our incredible Senators remind us that cities can and should be built by us all, to the benefit of us all,” **said Winta Yohannes, Executive Director of the Albina Vision Trust.**

“On behalf of the older adults we serve, Meals on Wheels People is excited to learn about this transformational funding for our work. We are incredibly grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their advocacy and support of this critical project! This funding will allow us to complete our new facility on 82nd Ave in Portland, OR which will function as a Resilience Hub for the southeast Portland community. In addition to increasing our capacity to provide nutritious meals and social services for older adults, this new building will offer support during natural disasters to the entire community. This expansion will serve multiple functions and uses renewable energy and energy storage to provide these crucial services.” **said Suzanne Washington, CEO of Meals on Wheels People.**

“We’re incredibly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for securing this vital federal funding. Their support helps open the door to homeownership for families and individuals who have historically been locked out. This investment will help us build 50 homes—one of our largest developments to date—and adds to the strong partnerships we have with the City of Portland, Metro, and the State of Oregon. We’re proud to have all levels of government working together to create more equitable access to affordable homeownership, “ **said Steve Messinetti, CEO Habitat for Humanity Portland Region**

“We’re grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for investing in a proven, often overlooked solution to housing instability. With furniture poverty affecting nearly one in three Americans, this support would help us meet growing demand and expand a program that delivers tangible, lasting impact for Oregon families, while supporting all community members and businesses with the option to donate instead of dump quality furniture and home goods.” **said Anna Kurnizki, Executive Director, Community Warehouse**