

**Community-Initiated Projects for Oregon Included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Draft Appropriations Bill**

1. **\$3.2 million for the Port of Portland to install critical electrical and other utility infrastructure for future tenants at the Port’s Mass Timber and Housing Innovation Campus at Terminal 2.** The T2 project will be a collaborative space where tenants drive housing innovation and development, spur industry growth, and boost economic opportunity, all while establishing itself as a regional center for mass timber manufacturing.
  - “Oregon is leading the way in the mass timber movement, thanks in part to the support of elected leaders like Senators Merkley and Wyden,” **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.”
2. **\$3 million to Meals on Wheels People to build and remodel their new Southeast Portland facility,** which will improve access to nutrition and high demand services for seniors and marginalized communities.
  - “On behalf of the older adults we serve, Meals on Wheels People is excited to learn about this transformational funding for our work,” **said Suzanne Washington, CEO.** “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.”
3. **\$2.82 million for the Klamath Tribes’ project to address housing insecurity and homelessness in the Tribal community.** With this funding, the Klamath Tribes Housing Department will build six affordable homes on a 55-acre shovel-ready site to provide safe, stable housing for Tribal elders and families.
4. **\$2.465 million for Everyone Village to fill a critical gap in affordable housing in the City of Eugene by developing 100 units of single room occupancy transitional housing.** This creative housing solution combines a scalable, cost-effective model with community support.
  - “The housing and homelessness crisis is the defining problem of our day and age. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand that we must have innovative and forward edge thinking and solutions to push back against the problem,” **said Gabe Piechowicz, Founder & Executive Director Everyone Village.** “Their support of the Everyone Village Affordable Housing project in

Eugene, which will change the game by developing safe permanent housing for 0-30% AMI, will help get a huge housing win on the table for all Oregonians!"

5. **\$2.2 million for Community Warehouse to acquire a new facility and expand the distribution of essential home furnishings in the Portland metro region to individuals and families in need as they transition out of homelessness and other crises.** Service demand has increased by 245% since 2020, and funding will support expanding facilities to meet growing community needs.
  - "In a time when so many people are afraid of losing their housing or struggling to make ends meet, this investment is a moment of hope. With nearly one in three Americans experiencing furniture poverty, Senator Merkley and Wyden's support for Community Warehouse means even more families could get the beds, tables, and essentials they need to turn empty housing into a stable, livable home," **said Anna Kurnizki, Executive Director of Community Warehouse.**
6. **\$2 million for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde for the second phase of their tumwata village project,** which is a long-term effort to bring cultural, ecological, and economic restoration to the Willamette Falls.
  - "For decades, the tumwata village property sat abandoned and ignored. This Community-Initiated Project funding from the Senate THUD Appropriations Bill will give us essential resources to breathe life back into the land while taking another step closer to returning people to Willamette Falls," **said Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.** "We're grateful that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden continue to see the importance of this project and what restoring tumwata village brings to the community."
7. **\$2 million for Rogue Valley Transit District to replace six gasoline-powered paratransit vehicles** that are past their useful-lives with electric paratransit vehicles, and update charging infrastructure.
  - "I would like to thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their efforts to bring American made, zero-emission vehicles to RVTD's fleet," **said Julie Brown, RVTD General Manager.** "Each year, our Valley Lift paratransit service connects roughly 50,000 older adults and people with disabilities to essential destinations across southern Oregon. Federal funding will help us complete one of the first zero-emission paratransit projects in America by replacing our oldest gasoline vehicles. New battery-electric paratransit vans will boost service reliability and reduce emissions by an estimated 481 Metric Tons of CO2 over the next five years."
8. **\$2 million for Umpqua Community College's (UCC) efforts to boost affordable housing for students.** The funding will go toward redeveloping a downtown Roseburg UCC-owned building into affordable housing for 60 students pursuing workforce training at the rural community college.
  - "We are so proud that Senators Merkley and Wyden see the benefit of our investment in rural Oregon and downtown Roseburg," **said President Rachel**

**Pokrandt, UCC.** “These funds will be used to create apartment, single room occupancy and dorm style housing in a treasured building that would otherwise stand empty. More housing supports workers and students in our community, and a vibrant and economically successful downtown supports the goals of the county as a whole. Students will live, work and learn right here and be part of a strong workforce pipeline.”

9. **\$2 million for the Corvallis Daytime Dropoff Center to construct a Homeless Services Navigation Center in Benton County.** This new Navigation Center will provide critical emergency shelter services to low-income community members who are experiencing homelessness, and will connect them with health services, permanent housing, and other supportive services.
  - “Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center (CDDC) is joyful and honored to partner with Senators Merkley and Wyden. This generous funding will catalyze CDDC Homelessness Navigation and Resilience Center project in Benton County. This exciting collaboration helps CDDC and our guests realize a long-time vision to create a safer, more compassionate and just community for our neighbors experiencing homelessness,” **said Allison Hobgood, Executive Director, on behalf of CDDC and their guests.**
10. **\$2 million to the City of Redmond for their Cinder Hollow affordable housing project,** which will support the development of five acres of land on which the City will build 30 affordable housing units. The funding will be used for pre-development infrastructure needs including sewer collection, water service, fire hydrants, and sidewalks.
  - “Opportunities to increase affordable home ownership in Redmond is critical, and Cinder Hollow will be significant project,” **said Mayor Ed Fitch, City of Redmond.** “We are very thankful for the leadership of Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden and their staff as they work with the rest of the federal delegation to deliver these resources to our community”
11. **\$2 million to the Marion Polk Food Share for their Food Bank Warehouse Relocation and Expansion project to help address food insecurity.** The funding will help purchase a property to construct a new, highly efficient building to serve as a hub for food banking and their Meals on Wheels program.
  - “Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognize that communities can only thrive when individuals and families have the healthy food they need. This funding will help Marion Polk Food Share acquire a new highly efficient warehouse and production kitchen to serve our community for the next 30+ years,” **said Rick Gaupo, President & CEO, Marion Polk Food Share.**
12. **\$2 million to Big River Community Land Trust (CLT) for the first phase of construction of a permanently affordable homeownership neighborhood in the City of Hood River.** This project will use the CLT model to address the housing affordability gap in Hood River, while fostering long-term community investment.
  - “Big River Community Land Trust is thrilled to have this support to build permanently affordable housing in what has become the most expensive region to live in Oregon. But what we appreciate most is that Senator

Merkley and Senator Wyden understand this is not just about addressing the housing crisis,” **said Alysha Sherburne, Executive Director.** “It’s about ensuring homes remain affordable across generations, preserving the social and economic diversity that defines Hood River and keeps it livable.”

13. **\$1.914 million for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) to construct a 15-unit building with modern amenities for Tribal and low-income members of greater Coos Bay community.** The 2-bedroom apartments will help address a significant need for low-income housing on Oregon’s South Coast.
  - "This news brings hope. It’s a reminder that when we raise our voices together, we can move mountains. Our ancestors endured great hardship, and today we honor them by building something lasting for our future generations,” **said CTCLUSI Chief Doug Barrett.**
14. **\$1.787 million the help Jefferson County replace Feather Drive Bridge.** This bridge serves as a critical access point for community members and emergency services, but the weight-limited timber bridge has structural deficiencies. The funding will go toward demolition of the existing bridge and the construction of a new, structurally sound bridge.
  - "We can't thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden enough for taking action to help our community," **said Matt Powlison, Jefferson County Public Works Director.** "This grant is a vital investment in our community's infrastructure. The replacement of the Feather Drive Bridge will not only enhance everyday access for our residents but also ensure that our emergency responders can reach those in need without delay. This project underscores our commitment to building a stronger, safer Jefferson County."
15. **\$1.7 million for the McKenzie Community Land Trust to build six affordable, fire-safe, multi-family Community Land Trust homes in Blue River.** These homes will help to rebuild and revitalize this community in Lane County, which was devastated during the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire.
  - "As the McKenzie Valley community works together to rebuild after the Holiday Farm Fire of 2020, we are grateful for this investment, allowing us to build affordable homes in the rural town of Blue River which was devastated by the wildfire," **said Brandi Ferguson, Interim Executive Director of the McKenzie Community Land Trust.**
16. **\$1.5 million for Columbia Gorge Education Service District to renovate a former middle school into The Dalles Early Learning Center.** This new center will serve over 200 young children in low-income communities in Wasco County, which is considered a child care desert. The new center will help meet the considerable need, while also being used as a teaching facility for child care professionals studying at Columbia Gorge Community College.
  - "Senators Merkley and Wyden are working to address the far-reaching impacts of living in a childcare desert. Their support for the Columbia Gorge Early Learning Center will help families gain employment because childcare needs are met with affordable, high-quality care,” **said Dana Pedersen, Superintendent, Columbia**

**Gorge ESD.** "Once completed, the center will also offer childcare for up to 200 children ages 0-5 and provide intervention services to many more, along with living wage jobs to more than 30 people and serve as a training site for students enrolled at the Columbia Gorge Community College. This solar-powered facility will serve as a resilience center for the west side of The Dalles in extreme weather or fire emergencies. Operations will be provided by Columbia Gorge Education Service District which will be housed in the facility. We are deeply appreciative of their support and continued interest in our community."

17. **\$1.5 million to help the Albina Vision Trust acquire a 10.5-acre site for the future redevelopment of over 1,000 units of affordable housing for low-to-moderate income families.** This site is part of Albina Vision Trust's larger comprehensive strategy to redevelop and revitalize Portland's historically Black Albina neighborhood.
  - "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 Merkley and Wyden, 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.**
18. **\$1.5 million to Network for Oregon Affordable Housing based in Portland to provide low-cost mortgages to first-time homeowners across the state using innovative ownership models such as Community Land Trusts.** The goal of the fund is to create affordable homeownership and wealth creation opportunities for lower income and traditionally underserved households throughout Oregon.
19. **\$1.45 million to John Day School District #3 for the Grant Early Learning Center.** The funding will be used to renovate an existing building and enable partners to come together under one roof to share professional training, behavioral approaches, curriculum, and parent engagement strategies, thus helping children with a smooth transition to kindergarten in this rural community.
  - "Grant SD #3 is grateful to the leadership of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden in advocating for our youngest learners in our community. The \$1.45 million dollar grant will substantially assist our collaborative team consisting of 22 partners in creating an Early Learning Center serving students birth to 5 in our community. The center will be able to leverage the resources and staff to create a space that better serves the needs of our early learning community. We appreciate the recognition of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden who fully understand the value of early education and support for the families of children birth to 5," **said Superintendent Mark Witty, John Day School District #3.**
20. **\$1.2 million to help the Oregon Center for Creative Learning construct an Early Childhood and Interactive Learning Center in the heart of downtown Grants Pass.** This project seeks to address critical gaps in early educational access, child care,

family support, and community engagement, which is essential to boost workforce development and economic revitalization of the region.

- "Early learning can be a game-changer, and these funds ensure more children will have access to high-quality early childhood education - laying a stronger foundation for our community's future. We are incredibly grateful for this award and the impact these funds will have," **said Sunny Spicer, Executive Director, Oregon Center for Creative Learning.**

21. **\$1 million for the Yamhill County Affordable Housing Corporation for their McMinnville Housing Rehabilitation project** to support necessary and urgently needed safety and accessibility repairs to low- and moderate-income homes. This project will help ensure that occupants can remain in their homes and not be displaced by uninhabitable housing conditions.
  - "This is exciting news and will make such a huge difference in our community for many of our neighbors and residents," **Mayor Kim Morris, City of McMinnville said.** "We are so thankful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for securing these much-needed funds for our community. These funds will be used to make the critical repairs or modifications needed to keep low and moderate-income families in their homes by replacing leaky roofs, building accessible ramps to the doors, repairing floors with holes in them, etc. Seniors, people with disabilities, and families with young children who own their own home but do not have the necessary resources to make these emergent repairs will now be able to stay in their homes. The city partners with the Yamhill County Affordable Housing Corporation to administer this program. We have over 190 households on a wait list in the City of McMinnville. Since 2014, over 77 homes have been helped thus far with two \$500,000 grants in the past. With these funds we hope to help approximately 60 more households.
22. **\$1 million for Northwest Community Housing Foundation to help construct workforce housing for Mount Hood National Forest employees and seasonal workers in Zig Zag, Oregon.** This project will directly support the region's economy, enhance employee retention, and ensure the continued viability of businesses in the region.
23. **\$1 million to Habitat for Humanity Portland Region to build townhomes for affordable homeownership opportunities.** The Carey Boulevard site in North Portland will consist of a clustered arrangement of 50 townhomes, most of which will have 3 or 4 bedrooms. There will be priority for households with generational ties to the community to preserve a thriving, diverse neighborhood.
  - "We're incredibly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for securing this vital federal funding," **said Steve Messinetti, President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity Portland Region.** "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.”

24. **\$1 million to the City of Portland to redevelop the Clara Vista— an important affordable housing complex in Northeast Portland’s highly diverse, low-income Cully Neighborhood.** The funding will go toward replacing the 108 aging housing units in the complex with affordable, energy-efficient rental units that include outdoor amenities and community spaces.
  - “We are grateful for the efforts of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden 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 the preserve 108 units and culturally-specific services, as well as create new opportunities for additional affordable housing on the existing site.”
25. **\$1 million for Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity to develop sixty units of affordable housing in the City of Redmond.** This project will include a diverse mix of cottages and duplex townhomes for families of all sizes, creating affordable home ownership opportunities for Central Oregon families.
  - “Westcliff Homes is more than housing—it’s how 60 families will put down roots, build equity, and thrive in the community they love,” **said Carly Colgan, CEO, Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity.** “By investing in Redmond’s future, we’re strengthening the local workforce and economy—ensuring the people who power Central Oregon can afford to live here.”
26. **\$752,000 for DevNW to build 14 Community Land Trust (CLT) homes in rural Linn County.** This project would address the critical shortage of affordable housing in by constructing 2-3 bedroom homes for low to moderate income families that will remain permanently affordable under the CLT model.
  - “This funding will be a game changer in developing new, affordable homes for ownership in Linn County,” **said Emily Reiman, CEO.** “DevNW is so appreciative that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden continue to champion pathways for first-time homebuyers, creating both wealth building opportunities for families and thriving communities throughout Oregon.”
27. **\$750,000 for Bridge Meadows to continue predevelopment on a new affordable, intergenerational housing community in Eugene.** The project seeks to create approximately 100 units of safe, affordable housing, fostering a sense of community and security and to ensure permanent housing for especially vulnerable populations such as children in foster care, families, and low-income seniors.
  - “We are sincerely grateful for the continued efforts of Senators Merkley and Wyden in their joint commitment to Oregon’s children, families and elders,” **said Dr. Derenda Schubert, Executive Director, Bridge Meadows.** “Their support provides essential resources for Bridge Meadows to provide more high-quality affordable housing and delivery of services for children and their families experiencing foster care, in addition to those that include the needs of our communities’ elders,” she added. “We recognize the Senators as two of Bridge Meadows’ many champions in our mission of cultivating

intergenerational communities of care throughout the State of Oregon, where families and elders can truly flourish."

28. **\$536,000 for Farmworker Housing Development Corporation (FHDC) to conduct the first phase of their multi-family affordable housing project in Albany.** This funding will specifically go toward the construction of 50 units of multifamily farmworker housing.
  - "Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognize that mid-sized cities like Albany face significant challenges in maintaining critical infrastructure while keeping costs affordable for working low-income families and individuals," **said FHDC, Executive Director Maria Elena Guerra, MPA.** "Their support for our federal funding request to extend the Goldfish Farm Road, including bringing water and sewer systems to East Albany, is a game-changer that would allow us to provide not only affordable rental housing but also affordable single-family homeownership, as well as affordable childcare and pre-K facilities."
29. **\$500,000 for Wallowa Resources to renovate an apartment building in the rural community of Enterprise to ensure that these rental units remain affordable.** This will help address Wallowa County's shortage of affordable workforce housing, which makes it difficult for employers to attract permanent and seasonal workers to the County.
  - "Wallowa Resources and Working Homes extend our heartfelt gratitude to Oregon's Senators for working to secure essential funding for our rural community. This vital support will address the shortage of affordable housing for both our workforce and retired population," **said Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director of Wallowa Resources.** "With these capital investments, we will enhance the safety, energy efficiency, and overall livability of Wallowa County's last remaining affordable open-market apartment building."
30. **\$500,000 for the City of Medford to undergo its Santos Center Discovery Preschool Expansion project.** This funding would be used to convert existing classrooms for full-time child care use and implement necessary safety and security improvements needed to increase its capacity and better meet the community's growing demand for child care, especially for children under age three.
  - "We're extremely grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support of Medford families. This \$500,000 investment in the Santo Community Center will allow us to expand Discovery Preschool and provide safe, high-quality care to more children. Their advocacy is helping us meet growing community needs and strengthen support for working parents," **said Robert Field, Medford City Manager.**
31. **\$173,000 to the City of Sumpter to renovate its Community Center.** Surrounded by forests on all sides, upgrades to this central building are needed to keep the community safe and healthy in light of increased wildfire and smoke threats.
  - "The City of Sumpter is excited to be considered for funding. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand small cities such as Sumpter have limited financial resources to repair aging infrastructure. Their support of our



financial assistance request to help repair our 20th century Community Center will renew the community pride in this Sumpter landmark and provide a safe gathering space for years to come," **said Linda Wise, Mayor of Sumpter.**

32. **\$105,000 to Linn-Benton Community College for critical upgrades to the Periwinkle Child Development Center.** Improvements will include a new roof and upgrades to security. This project will help ease the urgent need of early child care teachers to staff the many child care facilities in the area.
  - "We are incredibly grateful for the support and commitment from Senator Merkley and Wyden in investing in early childhood education," **said LBCC Periwinkle Child Development Center Director Kendra Votava.** "This investment is vital for both our young learners and practicum students and ensures we can complete essential repairs, including the roof, security systems, and fire alarms."