



## PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 19, 2022

Contact: Monica Foucher [foo-SHAY]  
Public Relations Associate Director  
Monica.Foucher@homeforward.org  
503-313-2657 (cell)

### Emergency Housing Vouchers Progress

PORTLAND, Oregon – **Housing families experiencing homelessness is core to Home Forward’s mission and is an effort we take seriously.** We recognize their need, we hear the community seeking solutions, and we continue our work to meet this urgency. This statement details our progress circulating 476 federal Emergency Housing Vouchers into the community and lays out some further transparency mechanisms that we will implement to keep the public informed.

**In this effort, we have prioritized long-term housing stability.** A housing voucher allows a family to pay an affordable rent in private market housing. In line with federal guidelines and local priorities, to begin using the Emergency Housing Vouchers allocated to Multnomah County, we established a referral linkage with the Joint Office of Homeless Services. These referrals prioritized systems of care serving youth, families, single adults, and survivors of domestic violence. However, they also uniquely aligned most families with services to support short-term leasing and to maximize long-term housing stability and retention. These supports utilize funding from the Metro Supportive Housing Services measure that voters passed in 2020. By October 2021, we began receiving referrals, aligned with services, from those systems of care.

**Our community’s efforts demonstrate progress.** After receiving a referral, Home Forward staff work with a family to provide a housing voucher and then support the family to use that voucher to lease a home. With our partners, we’ve set goals for progress that ensure we are on pace to meet HUD’s requirements while balancing urgency with intentionality. As of today, we have received 465 referrals. Of those, we have issued 285 vouchers, 92 of which are with families who have found and leased a home.

**We’re working to ensure the community has more information.** Each step in this process, including families’ housing searches once they receive their vouchers, takes time and effort, much of which is invisible to the public and our community. To ensure that the public has access to information, we have posted a daily updated dashboard at [homeforward.org/ehv](https://homeforward.org/ehv). It shows numbers on families that have been referred to Home Forward, vouchers that have been issued to a family, and vouchers that have been used to lease a home. It also includes additional demographic information about the households receiving this resource.

Housing families sustainably is vital to our mission, values, and day-to-day work. In that pursuit, we will keep the community informed on our progress. For owners interested in providing a home to a family with an Emergency Housing Voucher, please contact Home Forward Landlord Services at (503) 802-8333 option 4.

*Home Forward is the largest provider of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. Its mission is to assure that the people of the community are sheltered. Home Forward has a special responsibility to those who encounter barriers to housing because of income, disability, or special need. Use [www.homeforward.org](https://www.homeforward.org) or (503) 802-8300 for more information.*

###