



Bringing Oregonians Together

Affordable Housing Industry Dialogue



Timeline

November 2007 – July 2008

Region

Statewide

Participants

Affordable Housing Advocates; Oregon Bankers Association; Oregon Home Builders Association; Oregon Association of Realtors; State of Oregon Housing and Community Development Services

Project Lead

Laurel Singer
Health and Human Services
Oregon Consensus
Portland State University
(503) 725-9070
consensus@pdx.edu
www.orconsensus@pdx.edu

Facilitator

Michael Schnee, Michael Schnee Consulting, LLC

Background

The housing industry, affordable housing advocates and other stakeholders convened to work toward shared goals for affordable housing Oregon, including increasing funding, minimizing costs, reducing permitting obstacles to private and public housing, encouraging the availability of land for housing, and promoting home ownership.

Issues and challenges

Housing stakeholders disagreed during numerous legislative sessions about funding for affordable housing, the potential impact of fees and taxes on housing costs and the need for a strategic perspective on costs over time.

Results

Agreements of the group, formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding, were the basis for affordable housing legislation in the 2009 Oregon Legislative Session. Participants agreed on funding levels for affordable housing and support for a document recording fee to increase funding. They agreed to oppose a real estate transfer tax and mandatory inclusionary zoning, and developed a description of how they would work collaboratively in the Legislature to support the group's decisions. The group agreed to work together to promote housing options by keeping costs down, encouraging regulatory efficiency, and working with green building codes and funding sources to support rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units. The participants agreed to continue meeting quarterly to work toward long-term strategic solutions to housing issues.

Key Oregon Consensus Contributions

Oregon Consensus provided information about conducting a collaborative process, developed participant working agreements, guided meeting design, and facilitated discussions that focused on the issues, interests, a range of potential solutions, and a plan for ongoing collaboration.