



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

February 28, 2023

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners
800 Exchange Street, Ste 410
Astoria, OR 97103

Dear Commissioners,

First and foremost, I want to applaud you for the hard work you are doing in Clatsop County to respond to the homelessness crisis your community is experiencing. I want to assure you that I am absolutely committed to addressing homelessness in every corner of our state. It will take ongoing, active partnerships with leaders across Oregon to address the homelessness crisis, and you have my commitment to be that partner.

I signed Executive Order 23-02 on January 10, 2023, declaring a homelessness state of emergency in Continuums of Care that experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness of 50% or more between 2017 to 2022. I set this threshold to allow our limited emergency response infrastructure to focus on delivering targeted results in areas with the highest increases in unsheltered homelessness.

The Balance of State Continuum of Care was not included because there was an overall decline in unsheltered homelessness during this period of time. However, I fully recognize that homelessness is a crisis in communities throughout Oregon, as your recently declared local state of emergency very clearly articulates. That is why I am urging the legislature to approve an urgent, \$155 million investment package, including \$27.4 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in the 26 rural counties that make up the Balance of State Continuum of Care, including Clatsop County.

In addition, county governing bodies may request to be included in the state's emergency declaration. Thank you for submitting your request to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) for Clatsop County's inclusion in Executive Order 23-02.

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As you know, the criteria for counties within the Balance of State Continuum of Care to be included in the emergency order are as follows:

1. The unsheltered population in 2022 must be greater than 30 households, and
2. The community has declared a local state of emergency related to homelessness, and
3. At least one of the following is true:
 - a. Unsheltered homelessness increased by 50% or more between 2017-2022;
 - b. The rate of unsheltered homelessness in 2022 was 80% or greater.

After receiving this request, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) reviewed the data and we have determined that Clatsop County does meet the criteria for inclusion:

1. On February 23, 2023, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners declared a local state of emergency related to homelessness;
2. The number of unsheltered people in Clatsop County was 529 in 2022, which exceeds the minimum threshold of 30 households experiencing unsheltered homelessness; and
3. The share of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Clatsop County is 99%, which exceeds the minimum threshold of a rate of unsheltered homelessness of 80% or greater.

Staff from OHCS and ODEM will reach out to your local emergency management team very soon to begin the work of establishing a multi-agency coordinating group to administer the emergency response.

In partnership,



Governor Tina Kotek