

March 10, 2026

Metro Council
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97209

Dear Metro President Peterson and Councilors,

As the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, we write to share our concerns with Metro Resolution 26-5567 “For the Purpose of Adopting Oversight and Accountability Measures and Agenda Priorities for the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Regional Policy and Oversight Committee (RPOC).” We ask the Metro Council to delay a vote on the Resolution until our concerns have been addressed.

Over the past five years, the counties and Metro have worked tirelessly to build a coordinated regional response to homelessness. Clackamas County is proud of the system we have created.

Clackamas County has been involved in SHS reform conversations since 2022. We stand ready to support the work of SHS RPOC in the coming months. The current Resolution, however, has moved quickly through the Metro process and without meaningful engagement with the implementing county partners.

While we agree with some of the stated goals of this Resolution, we have significant concerns with Item 2, which *directs staff to recommend two governance models of the Regional Investment Fund (RIF) with the goal of transitioning funding decisions and disbursement responsibilities to Metro.*

This proposal would have immediate and harmful consequences for the people our housing system exists to serve. Specifically, this change to the RIF would threaten three types of critical regional infrastructure that allows us to move people from crisis toward stability and long-term well-being:

1) Healthcare System Alignment

Through the Regional Investment Fund, Clackamas County integrates housing and health systems to serve people experiencing homelessness who are medically and behaviorally vulnerable. Health and Housing Case Conferencing has connected 120 individuals to essential services like Behavioral Health and Disability Services, including even life-saving outpatient surgery. Hundreds more have accessed Medicaid Health-Related Social Needs rent and utility benefits because of this coordinated work.

Without these Regional Investment Fund resources, this alignment between housing and healthcare professionals would cease. Medically fragile residents would lose coordinated access to care. People would return to cycling between the streets, emergency rooms, and crisis systems—at far greater human and financial cost.

2) Housing Stability and Self-Sufficiency

The RIF provides nearly half of the funding for Housing 4 Success, an innovative program helping 125 households transition from permanent rental assistance toward financial stability. Through career coaching, job training, barrier removal, specialized case management, and matched savings, families are building pathways out of poverty and toward long-term independence.

Withholding the RIF from the County would immediately place these 125 households at risk of losing the very support designed to prevent a return to homelessness.

3) Access, Coordination, and Housing Opportunities

The Regional Investment Funds strengthens coordinated entry processes so that people experiencing homelessness are matched efficiently and equitably to housing resources. It supports modernization of our regional data system, improving transparency and accountability. It funds landlord engagement strategies that reduce risk and expand housing opportunities for high-needs individuals. It provides technical assistance and training that ensure community-based providers can deliver high-quality, culturally responsive services.

These are not administrative enhancements – they are the connective tissue of a functioning regional housing system. Removing RIF from the Clackamas County housing continuum would destabilize the system just as it has become fully operational.

The Regional Investment Fund was envisioned as a tool to enhance regional coordination, promote innovation, and increase efficiency while maintaining local implementation. Centralizing these funds under Metro would reverse that structure and significantly diminish the ability of counties to respond to the unique needs of their communities.

Of critical importance, the Regional Investment Fund is an embedded and required component of each county's intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Metro and serves as a core mechanism through which counties implement Supportive Housing Services. Withholding these funds would not only undermine the structure and intent of that agreement, but would also jeopardize five years of deliberate, good-faith regional collaboration.

We respectfully request a deferral of Metro Council's vote on Resolution 26-5567 until after Metro and the County meet to specifically address Clackamas County's concerns with Item 2.

Respectfully,

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners