At Home in Lincoln County 2.0

At Home in Lincoln County
The Updated Ten Year Housing Plan for Lincoln County December 2012
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Executive Summary

“At Home in Lincoln County 2.0” is a revision of “At Home in Lincoln County: A Ten-Year Housing Plan for Lincoln County with a Special Focus on Chronic Homelessness. As long as one family is without a decent, safe and affordable home; as long as one person is without the health care they need; as long as one child goes to bed hungry; then there is still work ahead. Five years ago, our message could have been summed up: “Let us begin.” Today, it is simply: “Let us continue.”

The original plan was launched in October 2007, after a year-long series of stakeholder and steering committee meetings and community forums. The momentum for development of the plan began with a county-wide forum on housing and homelessness that took place in October 2005. The update for this plan was developed with a number of stakeholders at two follow-up meetings in August 2012. The updated goals and actions are included in this report.

In the pages and appendices that follow, readers will find:

- Relevant data on homelessness and housing affordability demonstrating that need continues in our community;
- A review of our significant progress and accomplishments during the first five years of the plan; and
- A look at goals and priorities for the next five years as we move forward with this work.

Many good things have been accomplished in the past five years, much work still remains.

Plan Update Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Hall</td>
<td>Lincoln County Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lola Jones</td>
<td>Executive Director, Samaritan House</td>
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<td>Lincoln County School Based Health Centers</td>
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<td>Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Newport</td>
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<td>Katey Townsend</td>
<td>Lincoln County School District McKinney-Vento Program Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamara Rosser</td>
<td>Executive Director, RSVP, Lincoln County</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Mission, Vision and Oversight Structure

Stakeholder planning sessions produced several goals and action plans. We will strive to address homelessness issues using collaborations, partnerships and leveraging local resources to build better service systems. Below are the mission and vision statements that the core group of stakeholders developed at the meetings.

**Mission Statement:**

“The Lincoln County Ten-Year Plan Committee provides a forum for participating organizations and interested individuals to share information and take action.”

**Vision Statement:**

The original vision statement from “At Home in Lincoln County” remains relevant today: “All people in Lincoln County should have the opportunity to live in a decent, safe and affordable home that allows for their physical, emotional and economic well-being.”

**Oversight Committee**

The Oversight Committee is established to maximize the impact of our collective work and to ensure the efficient use of resources. The committee has a formal structure with a President, Co-President, and a Secretary. The Co-Presidents will represent the Committee work and progress to the public, call meetings, and hold committees and sub-committees accountable for their work. The Secretary will distribute meeting notes, set meeting times and agendas with the Co-Presidents, and help coordinate and distribute agendas. The Executive Team will meet monthly to develop agendas and plan meetings, and the stakeholder, committee, and subcommittees will meet on an “as-needed” basis.
Rural Homelessness and Troubling Poverty Trends in Lincoln County

Rural homelessness has unique characteristics that differentiate it from urban homelessness and challenge us to develop solutions to best fit our local circumstances and experience. Rural counties have suffered in the extreme from the recent recession. Federal cuts and dwindling county and city resources to agencies that offer education, training, and emergency housing to impoverished community members limits organizational and community response to homelessness. A study done by Patricia Post entitled “Hard to Reach: Rural Homelessness and Health Care,” finds that people experiencing homelessness in rural areas:

1) Tend to be less educated but are more likely to be employed, usually in temporary or service jobs;

2) Are less likely to receive government assistance, but are more likely to have higher average monthly incomes and more likely to receive cash assistance from friends;

3) Experience shorter episodes of homelessness and are two to four times more likely to live with family or friends; and,

4) Are as likely as other homeless persons to report having mental health, alcohol or drug problems during the past month, but six times more likely than their urban counterparts to report alcohol-only related problems during the year.

According to the 2010 US Census, Lincoln County families experience higher levels of poverty at 11.6% compared to the statewide rate of 11.0%.

Children are also greatly impacted by the recent poverty trends. Around 39% of all children in Oregon live in families with low incomes who cannot meet their basic needs for food and shelter. According to Patricia Post’s report, some economists estimate that persistent childhood poverty costs our country about $500 billion a year by way of lost productivity, school drop-outs, crime, and the growing numbers enrolled in nutrition and public assistance programs. Obviously, solving poverty is beyond the scope of this plan, but it can point the way to a variety of near-term and longer-term approaches to mitigate its most serious impacts. Every forward step we take as a community in this effort will reap benefits—some that can be measured, others that cannot.

According to Jeffery Bartash of MarketWatch.com, even those traditionally living above the poverty level saw their earning power decline, with 2011 median income falling 2.9% from 2009, the second sharpest decline on record. Some estimates indicate that more than 55 million people in the United States will need assistance to meet their basic needs in the coming years.

Mr. Bartash believes that although economic news is improving at the federal level, and statistics demonstrate a slowly improving recession; small business, the backbone of the US economy, was able to add 97,000 jobs, barely offsetting Public Sector layoffs in 2011. The State of Oregon is 13th in the nation in economic recovery. And, as we know, economic upheavals
have a disproportionately negative impact on lower income families as they enter the unemployment lines, see a reduction in work hours and wages, and rising interest rates on credit debt, all of which have the greatest impact on those who can afford it the least.

**Goals and Strategies for 2012-2015**

The goals and strategies below were selected to address many of the trends we are seeing in Lincoln County. Activities one through five are prioritized. All work will be supervised by the Oversight Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **#1) Provide Improved Emergency Response and Prevention of Homelessness** | • Provide overnight shelter for single adults and families experiencing homelessness (Faith Community Services, Family Promise, Emergency Warming Center)  
• Develop strategies to address the needs of teens aging out of the foster care system  
• Create/sustain housing for unaccompanied minors  
• Investigate the feasibility of a rapid re-housing program  
• Create/sustain a day labor program |
| **#2) Provide Coordinated Outreach** | • Create subcommittees to implement action items, as new priorities emerge over the coming three years  
• Encourage local government to develop and implement a policy on homeless camping as per ORS 203.077 & ORS 203.079  
• Improve service coordination among agencies that serve individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability (Identified as a priority in the Regional Plan)  
• Review or establish hospital discharge protocols re: housing and service referrals (Ours will be a supporting role, Samaritan Health Services will be lead agency)  
• Support the expansion of existing Drug Court and Mental Health Court programs (Ours will be a supporting role)  
• Coordinate with local emergency planners and first responders to make sure that needs of homeless and inadequately sheltered populations are addressed in time of emergency, as described in Emergency Support Function annex 6 of the county’s Emergency Operations Plan. |
| **#3) Develop Housing Opportunities** | • Identify housing units for people who have special needs such as those who have been incarcerated or are on parole, people with mental health issues or other chronic conditions. (Identified as a
LINCOLN COUNTY – Moving Forward

In 2007, the national economy was still strong, but many Lincoln County residents were coping with poverty. A year later, the United States was plunged into its worst fiscal crisis since the Great Depression. We are still struggling to recover, and during the past few years, many individuals and families in this county slipped over the line into homelessness.

Lincoln County is located on the central Oregon coast and has an area of 992 square miles. The County’s 2010 population estimate was 45,892. In 2010, the county’s per capita personal income (PCPI) was $33,485 or about 11% lower than the statewide average for the same year. The 2010 US Census estimates that 7,545 persons (16.2% of the population) in Lincoln County live in poverty, with 23.3% of youth living in poverty. By July 2011, Lincoln County’s unemployment rate was 10.2%. As with other areas of the state, many jobs are in the service sectors and many dependent on the tourist industry.

We have made some encouraging progress during these years in attracting new resources and developing new services, even in an era of greater scarcity. Those achievements are highlighted elsewhere in this document.

“At Home in Lincoln County” was only the fourth ten-year plan to be completed in Oregon. In the years since, plans have been completed in many more Oregon counties, state and federal homeless plans have been adopted, and a regional plan covering Lincoln, Linn, and Benton counties has been developed. The Regional Oversight Group met for the first time in September 2012 to report on progress and obstacles to the action items described in the Linn-Benton-Lincoln Regional Homeless Plan. This is an appropriate time to take a look at what’s been accomplished and refocus for the future, capitalizing on the collaboration and support of the tri-county area.

The national momentum to develop ten-year plans was launched in 2000 when the National Alliance to End Homelessness declared that chronic homelessness among single adults could be wiped out within a decade if proven best practices were applied to the program. Two years later, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness formally launched the national effort to encourage local jurisdictions to develop plans.

For the momentum of this plan to continue, there needs to be a fundamental shift in focus. The original “At Home in Lincoln County” was a plan led by government entities, supported by the
community; in this update, we turn that model on its head. “At Home in Lincoln County 2.0” is a community-led plan, supported by units of government. In an era of rising need and diminished government resources, this is the only approach that is financially sustainable. It’s also the approach most likely to win the greatest level of community buy-in and participation over the long term.

APPENDIX

• Definitions and Data
• Action Plans
• Demographic and Supporting Information
  o Poverty
  o Income
  o Employment
  o Wages
  o Housing
  o Health Care, Mental Health, and Chemical Dependency
  o Youth
  o Domestic Violence
  o Transportation
  o Ex-offenders
  o Shelter Counts
• Meeting Notes
  o August 2, 2012
  o August 9, 2012
Part One: Definitions and Data

The question of what constitutes homelessness has been a subject of ongoing debate. At the time Congress passed the HEARTH act in 2009, there was no single federal definition of homelessness. In December 2011, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) adopted a new definition that includes four broad categories of homelessness:

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided
- People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing
- Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state
- People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Two surveys of individuals experiencing homelessness in Lincoln County showed results in line with numerous studies nationally: a variety of factors can contribute to homelessness, and in most cases, many of these are at work in the lives of individuals and families. They include:

- Poverty:
  - More than one in ten (11.6%) of all families in Lincoln County are living below the poverty line. Almost four in ten (39.3%) of families with female heads of household are living below the poverty line. One in ten (10%) of all seniors (65 years or older) are living below the poverty line.¹

- Lack of living wage jobs:
  - Nearly one third (29%) of the work force is employed in the leisure and hospitality industry, the most common employment for non-skilled labor in the county. The average hourly wage for this industry is $8.05/hour, roughly $16,738 annually.²

- Unavailability of safe, decent, affordable housing:
  - The fair market value of a 2 bedroom unit in Lincoln County is $659/month. The estimated average hourly wage for a Lincoln County renter is $8.48. The affordable rent, as defined by no more than 30% of gross monthly income, for the average Lincoln County renter is $441. This means that the average renter in Lincoln County would need to work ten hours a day, seven days a week to afford the fair market value of a 2-bedroom unit.³

¹ US Census Bureau 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3 Year Estimates
² Oregon employment Department – 2010 Covered Employment and Wages
³ National Low Income Housing Coalition – Out of Reach 2012
• Domestic violence:
  o 92% of all homeless women experience some form of assault or sexual assault.  
  Last year in Lincoln County, about 2,741 cases of domestic violence, sexual
  assault, and stalking cases were reported to police. My Sister’s Place, a domestic
  violence shelter, has 24 available beds, and rarely are they unoccupied.

• Physical and mental health issues:
  o In Lincoln County there are 5 certified and registered psychiatrists and 5
    certified and registered psychologists, along with 127 counselors/therapists.
    From 2009-2010 there were 1,080 mental health consumers in Lincoln County,
    49 of which self-identified as homeless.

• Substance abuse:
  o From 2009-2010, 12 homeless adults sought treatment for substance abuse
    issues.

• Lack of transportation:
  o Oregon is a largely rural state. This lack of density poses problems for the
    provision of public transit, whether through fixed route or demand response
    service. Most rural residents are dependent on their cars for access to work,
    medical care and other basic needs. People living in the rural areas and who lack
    cars and access to public transportation are at a strong disadvantage. With no
    access to these transit resources, they may be limited to relying on friends,
    family, or associates for travel. This reliance may severely limit the flexibility
    of travel and limit those individuals’ independence. When transit is not available,
    older adults and people with disabilities, in particular, experience more
    restrictions on their ability to travel and must rely more heavily on informal
    networks or formal supportive services to meet their needs. Rural public transit
    also plays a vital role for agricultural workers.

• Lack of child care:
  o According to OSU’s Childcare Research Project, childcare costs about $35 a day
    per child.
  o Public subsidies for childcare have been reduced.
  o For every 100 children who need childcare, there are only 19 slots available with
    licensed facilities.

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4 The Center for Women and Families 2011 Report
5 Oregon Office of Rural Health – 2011 Service Area Report
6 Oregon PATHY FFY 2011 Application, pages 66-68
7 Oregon PATHY FFY 2011 Application, pages 66-68
8 David Evans and Associates, 2012
• Poor credit history:
  o Most landlords require a credit score of 600 or better, in order to rent an apartment

• History of incarceration:
  o More than 10% of those coming in and out of prisons and jails are homeless in the months before incarceration. For those with mental illness, the rate is 20%. Forty-nine percent of homeless adults have reportedly spent five or more days in a city or county jail over their lifetimes, and 12.8% have been incarcerated in a state of federal prison.\(^9\) From 2011-2012, 187 inmates were released back into Lincoln County.\(^10\)

• Lack of family support/support networks

• Loss of access to services:
  o In 2011, The Salvation Army chapter in Lincoln County lost federal funding for rental assistance, eliminating one of the only non-government sources of such one-time assistance in the county. The Housing Authority of Lincoln County recently re-opened the Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 waiting list, long dormant. However, there is no guarantee how long this will stay open and how many families will receive vouchers before it closes again.
  o Senate Bill 909, passed in the 2011 session of the Oregon Legislature, abolished the 36 county Commissions on Children and Families (CCF). In Lincoln County, the CCF has been a key partner in building collaborations and leveraging resources during the first five years of this plan. The Community Services Consortium saw its ability to provide assistance to struggling families expand dramatically with the federal stimulus bill, but that capacity vanished with dramatic suddenness once the stimulus was exhausted.

**Housing First as a Best Practice**

“Housing First” is a best practice at the core of the national effort to redefine the approach to homelessness. “Housing First” turns the traditional model of dealing with homelessness on its head. Instead of placing someone in emergency and transitional housing while they address the issues at the root of their homelessness, and then rewarding them with permanent housing at the end of the journey, they are placed in permanent housing up front and connected with the services they need. Once families are placed in housing, they have stability and can access services and opportunities. Numerous studies have documented that this approach is much more cost effective and successful in allowing people to permanently exit homelessness than the traditional approach.

Permanent Supportive Housing is one way of fulfilling the goal of “Housing First”. This is housing with a strong tie to services. There is no set time limit on occupancy. For some families and

\(^9\) National Alliance to End Homelessness, “Homelessness and Prison Re-Entry”, 2010

\(^10\) Pew Center for the States Annual Report, 2010
individuals, it becomes a transitional step to another stable housing situation; for others, often those dealing with chronic debilitating physical or mental conditions, it can become a permanent living situation.

The original version of “At Home in Lincoln County” adopted the “Housing First” model as a goal, and 18 units of Permanent Supportive Housing were created in the county as a result of a 2007 initiative by the Oregon Legislature (Tern House, 2008 and Pelican Place, 2010).

Since these two apartment buildings reopened as Permanent Supportive Housing, 50 adults and 28 children have been provided a stable, affordable place to live. Fifteen individuals and 14 families have successfully transitioned to other stable living situations thanks to the close linkage between housing and supportive services, while 19 adults and 13 children remain housed at Tern and Pelican as of this writing.

While it is a highly effective model, it is also expensive and time consuming to initiate and operate. The limitations to “Housing First” in Lincoln County are many. The immediacy of homelessness, particularly family homelessness, leads agencies and organizations to seek alternative, more immediate solutions, albeit temporary, to homelessness. The limited network of emergency and transitional shelter will be part of a comprehensive approach to homelessness for some time to come.

More on Housing

The combination of high demand, a limited base of buildable land, and low wages have worked in concert to create a workforce housing crisis in Lincoln County. Even the burst of the housing bubble that helped precipitate the recession did not reverse the fact that in a span of two decades, housing prices grew twice as fast as wages.11

The Workforce Housing Needs Assessment completed in 2011 found that rental rates in the county are high. Much of the rental units available, both apartments and homes, are older, often not in good repair, and lacking many of the amenities renters are looking for today.

A lack of affordable housing has many undesirable consequences. Businesses have reported increasing difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified workers. Essential workers in fields such as public safety, public works and medicine are often forced to commute long distances from their homes. The diversity of a community suffers when housing is not affordable for individuals and families at a range of income levels.

11 Lincoln County Workforce Housing Needs Assessment
The U.S. Census Bureau considers a family to be cost-burdened if it is paying more than 30 percent of its gross income for housing, severely cost burdened if it is paying more than 50 percent of its gross income for housing.

In Lincoln County, more than half (56.8 percent) of all households are paying 30 percent or more of their monthly income for housing.\textsuperscript{12}

As stated above, homelessness is a complex problem with no single cause or solution. However, poverty seems to be one of the principal drivers of homelessness among individuals and families. Homelessness impacts all segments of society, but as data suggests, in Lincoln County a disproportionate number of its victims are single mothers and children.

\textbf{Part Two: Accomplishments and in progress, 2007-2012}

The first version of “At Home in Lincoln County” was built on the foundation laid by committed members of the community over a long period. Organizations like the Samaritan House family shelter, My Sisters’ Place domestic violence shelter and services, Food Share of Lincoln County and the network of community pantries, the local Habitat for Humanity Chapter, the Lincoln County School District (LCSD) homeless liaison program, the Housing Authority of Lincoln County and the Community Development Corporation of Lincoln County have provided temporary shelter, housing and services to those in need for many years.

However, a perception of a rising need for new and larger resources to address homelessness and the growing shortage of workforce housing helped spur the gathering of more than 100 community participants at the one-day summit on homelessness and housing in October 2005, which paved the way for the launch of “At Home in Lincoln County” two years later.

\textbf{Areas of Accomplishment:}

Housing Creation

\begin{itemize}
  \item 18 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (Tern House 2008, Pelican Place 2010)
  \item 2 homes, Habitat for Humanity
  \item Lincoln Community Land Trust, two homes completed, one more under construction at time of publication
  \item Workforce Housing Needs Assessment
  \item Workforce Housing Tool Kit
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{12} US Census Bureau, 2011
Emergency and Transitional Shelter and Services

- Project Homeless Connect (Newport and Lincoln City)
- Expansion of LCSD homeless liaison program (from 1 FTE to 5 FTE)
- Warming Center, 2009, 10, 11
- Information and Referral and service coordination (public and private)
- 211 Linn-Benton-Lincoln established Jan. 2011
- Inter-Christian Outreach (ICO) established in Newport (referral center open Dec. 2012)

System Changes

- Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo and Lincoln County workforce housing funds
- Newport housing needs assessment, land bank and policy changes

Projects in Development

- Adult Services Team (Regional Homeless Plan)
- Host Home Program Community Coalition (Runaway and Homeless Youth Coalition)
- Car camping under consideration in Newport (ICO and Samaritan House)
- Lincoln City family shelter efforts (North County HELP)
  - Youth Day Center (Newport Church of the Nazarene)
- Mental Health Court, HOPE Court created

Items considered by the Oversight Committee meetings

- Action at city level
- Lincoln City, Newport and Toledo workforce housing funds
- Newport housing needs assessment, land bank and policy changes
- Advocacy on policy issues
- County is part of Housing Alliance, which supported document recording fee, other state funding and policy issues
- Changing community perceptions
- Homeless Memorial Day service
- Photo Voice
- Health care: primary care, mental health, addictions
- Accomplishments:
Part Three: The Next Five Years

Creation of new resources was one of the primary goals of the original edition of “At Home in Lincoln County”. Key goals in this update are to build on our success and knowledge over the last five years and solidify support for the accomplishments that have been made to date. As economic conditions improve and new resources become available, we will pursue realistic opportunities for additional housing and services.

Significant tasks identified in original plan, not addressed or not completed:

- Identify housing units for those leaving incarceration/on parole
- Improve discharge planning from incarceration/other institutionalization
- Address needs of teens aging out of foster care
- Single point of entry/no wrong door approach to providing services
- Develop programs to encourage/support private landlords to rent to potential tenants with challenges (poor credit history, history of incarceration, etc.)
- Better data collection, analysis and presentation. As more and more public and private funders base funding decisions on data-driven outcomes, this will become even more critical

Links and Resources

Local information and data: www.homelessinlincolncounty.com

Oregon’s Ending Homeless Advisory Council and the state’s ten-year plan, A Home for Hope: http://www.ehac.oregon.gov/


National Alliance to End Homelessness: http://www.endhomelessness.org/

Lincoln County School District HELP-Homeless program: http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=1051

Samaritan House Family Homeless Shelter: http://www.samfamshelter.org/

My Sisters’ Place domestic violence shelter and services: http://www.mysistersplace.us/

Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County: http://www.hfhlc.org/

Lincoln Community Land Trust: http://www.csc.gen.or.us/lincoln_community_land_trust.htm

Housing Authority of Lincoln County: http://www.halc.info/

Community Development Corporation of Lincoln County: http://www.lincolncdc.org
Demographic and Supporting Information

Poverty – comparative rates for Oregon and Linn, Lincoln and Benton Counties

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 10% of families in Oregon are living below the poverty level with female heads of households experiencing poverty at three times that rate. Lincoln County shows a higher percentage, 11.6%, of families living below the poverty level compared to the State. Poverty continues to be three times the family level for female heads of household in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties.

Source: US Census Bureau 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates

Poverty for children under the age of 18 is disproportionate across the region. Children in Linn and Lincoln counties experience poverty at a rate of more than 4% over other children in Oregon and almost double that at more than 8% over children in Benton County. Almost 50% of children in Lincoln County who are with a female head of household live in poverty while Linn County is around 38% and Benton County is around 33%.
People over the age of 65 experience lower levels of poverty in Linn and Benton counties compared to the State of Oregon, however in Lincoln County the poverty level continues to be higher than the rest of the region.
**Service Use**

Use of social services varies greatly across the region. According to the Oregon Department of Education, over 60% of school children in Lincoln County are eligible for free and reduced lunches while only 37% are eligible in Benton County. Although the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced lunch in Linn County is roughly in-between Lincoln and Benton counties, the amount of women and children participating in the WIC program is almost double that of the other two counties. Households in Benton County continue to experience lower levels of program use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>% of Students eligible to receive Free or Reduced Lunches</th>
<th>Average # (%) of Households receiving Food Stamps</th>
<th>Number of WIC Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>7,076 (15.9%)</td>
<td>4,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
<td>3,674 (10.9%)</td>
<td>2,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>3,486 (16.9%)</td>
<td>2,448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Income**

The average annual household income in the state of Oregon is $63,579. Benton County shows a slightly higher average, while Linn and Lincoln counties averages are about $10,000 less than the state average. Lincoln County has the lowest median and average incomes of the region. This corresponds to previous data about the poverty levels and service use rates in Lincoln County.

Source: US Census Bureau 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-year Estimates
Employment

Unemployment levels in Linn County have been consistently higher than the other two counties in the region, peaking at 13.8% in 2009 and sometimes double the rate in Benton County. Unemployment rates are slowly decreasing as the economy improves.

![Unemployment Rates](image)

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Average Annual (Hourly) Wages Per Industry

Most major industries across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties provide annual wages lower than the state average. These include: Construction, Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Financial Activities, Professional & Business Services, Leisure & Hospitality, and Other Services. Only one industry, Natural Resources & Mining, had consistently higher average wages than the state average.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>$33,008 ($15.86)</td>
<td>$41,478 ($19.94)</td>
<td>$54,026 ($25.97)</td>
<td>$32,345 ($15.55)</td>
<td>$41,353 ($19.88)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>$28,286 ($13.60)</td>
<td>$37,906 ($18.22)</td>
<td>$79,778 ($38.35)</td>
<td>$29,183 ($14.03)</td>
<td>$64,394 ($30.96)</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>$37,283 ($17.92)</td>
<td>$40,847 ($19.63)</td>
<td>$49,811 ($23.98)</td>
<td>$23,705 ($11.40)</td>
<td>$35,707 ($17.17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Oregon</td>
<td>$26,525 ($12.75)</td>
<td>$47,135 ($22.66)</td>
<td>$57,411 ($27.60)</td>
<td>$38,174 ($18.35)</td>
<td>$63,097 ($30.34)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Housing

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition at least a third of the households in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties are maintained by renters. The following table displays the hourly wage necessary to afford rent at the Fair Market Rate (FMR). This is known at the “housing wage”. However, on average, renter’s hourly wage is well below the housing wage and most would need to work more than one full-time job to afford the FMR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>FY 12 Housing Wage</th>
<th>2 Bedroom FMR</th>
<th>Full time jobs at minimum wage ($8.80) to afford FMR</th>
<th>% of Households that house renters</th>
<th>Estimated Average Renter Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Rent Affordable at Average Renter Hourly Wage</th>
<th>Full Time Jobs necessary to afford FMR at Renter Hourly Wage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>$13.27</td>
<td>$690</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>$11.29</td>
<td>$587</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>$14.88</td>
<td>$774</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>$10.43</td>
<td>$542</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>$12.67</td>
<td>$659</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>$8.48</td>
<td>$441</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition – Out of Reach: 2012

It is generally accepted that housing expenses should be no more than 30% of gross income. However as housing markets shift and the economy changes, significantly more Oregonians are contributing more than suggested toward housing costs. Although statistically Benton County shows favorable income and employment data compared to the rest of the region, over half the renters (62.3%) pay more than recommended for housing.
Although the majority of housing in the region contains adequate plumbing and kitchen facilities, 2% of Benton County residents, highest in the region, are living in homes without complete kitchens. It is imperative to assess housing conditions. Individuals and/or families live without adequate plumbing or kitchen facilities, but may not be considered homeless.

### Housing Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lack Complete Plumbing Facilities</th>
<th>Lack Complete Kitchen Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>.4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>.3%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>.2%</td>
<td>.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Cost of Living

### Budget for One Parent/One Child

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Child Care</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Taxes</th>
<th>Total Monthly</th>
<th>Total Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>2,995</td>
<td>35,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (Linn &amp; Lincoln)</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>2,452</td>
<td>29,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Budget for One Parent/Two Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Child Care</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Taxes</th>
<th>Total Monthly</th>
<th>Total Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>463</td>
<td>3,581</td>
<td>42,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (Linn &amp; Lincoln)</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>-163</td>
<td>2,666</td>
<td>31,997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Budget for Two Parents/Two Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Child Care</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Health Care</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Taxes</th>
<th>Total Monthly</th>
<th>Total Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>982</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>3,996</td>
<td>47,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural (Linn &amp; Lincoln)</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>754</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>3,399</td>
<td>40,786</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Health Care, Mental Health and Homeless Student Counts

Below are the individual statistics that demonstrate the number of health care providers in Benton, Lincoln and Linn Counties. The following tables include counts for consumers who used mental health services, the 2009-10 counts for homeless adults reported with substance abuse problems, and homeless student counts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Benton</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>Linn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physicians</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatrists</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologist</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselors/Therapists</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oregon Office of Rural Health – 2011 Service Area Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Benton</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>Linn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured Adults</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured Children</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

County Health Rankings 2012 – [www.countyhealthrankings.org/oregon](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/oregon)
Children First for Oregon, Status of Oregon’s Children 2011 – [www.cffo.org](http://www.cffo.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Benton</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>Linn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Blood Pressure</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight Adults</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese Adults</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults Smokers</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oregon BRFSS County Combined Dataset 2006-2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Benton</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>Linn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Mental Health Consumers/2009-2010</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>2,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Mental Health Consumers – Homeless/ 2009-2010</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Adults with Substance Abuse/2009-2010</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oregon PATHY FFY 2011 Application – Pages 66-68

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Benton</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>Linn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Student Counts</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch 2011/2012</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oregon Department of Education – School District Homeless Student Counts 2008-09
Oregon Department of Education – Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch 2011-12
Youth

Out of Home Placements

According to Northwest Benchmarks 2010 Study, 9.7% of homeless youth 18 and under per 1000 have experienced an out-of-home placement including foster care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Out of Home Placements 2010</th>
<th>Total youth population</th>
<th>Out of Home Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>21,142</td>
<td>2,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>23,171</td>
<td>2,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>8,910</td>
<td>918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Juvenile Arrests

Youth leaving juvenile detention centers or involved in crimes have been linked to problems in youth homelessness. Below is a table of juvenile arrests per county in 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juvenile Arrests in 2008</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

High School drop-out rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Drop Out Rates 2008</th>
<th>Compiled from District records – amounts are approximate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Births to Teen Mothers

According to the Oregon Permanency Round Table, 2010, nearly half of youth on the street and a third of youth in shelters report having been pregnant in the past. In fact, the pregnancy rate for homeless youth aged 15-19 is over 10 times higher than the rate of at-home youth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Births to teen Mothers 10-17 years of age, 2010</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Domestic Violence
More than 1 of every 8 Oregon women 18 to 64 years of age are estimated to have been victims of physical abuse (physical assault, sexual coercion, or injury) by an intimate partner during 1998. These are not isolated incidents; 3 of 4 female victims experienced multiple acts of physical abuse. The 1998 Oregon Domestic Violence Needs Assessment shows that 98,000 women were victims of physical abuse, 74,900 victims of sexual coercion, and 49,000 victims of injury.

- Annually, females experience over 10 times as many incidents of violence by an intimate as compared to males. On average each year, women experienced 572,032 violent victimizations at the hands of an intimate, compared to 48,983 incidents committed against men (Ronet Bachman, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Violence Against Women: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report," January 1994, p. 6).
- Up to 50% of all homeless women and children in the U.S. are fleeing domestic violence. Yet there are nearly 3 times as many animal shelters in the U.S. as there are shelters for battered women and children: 3,800 for animals, 1,500 for battered women (Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings, 1990; Schneider, 1990).
- Ninety-seven percent of the partners of abused women in Oregon are male. Abusive partners represent all social and economic groups. Abusive partners are 2.7 times more likely to have histories of alcohol use problems than non-abusive partners, and 7 times more likely to have histories of drug use problems.
- Twenty-two percent of women physically abused during the past 10 years in Oregon obtained restraining orders against their partners. However, restraining orders were violated for 62% of these women. Three-fourths of those women reporting restraining order violations reported multiple violations.

Transportation

Oregon is a largely rural state. This lack of density poses problems for the provision of public transit, whether through fixed route or demand response service. People living in the rural areas and who lack cars and access to public transportation are at a strong disadvantage. With no access to these transit resources, they may be limited to relying on friends, family, or associates for travel. This reliance may severely limit the flexibility of travel and limit those individuals’ independence. When transit is not available, older adults and people with disabilities, in particular, experience more restrictions on their ability to travel and must rely more heavily on informal networks or formal supportive services to meet their needs. Rural public transit also plays a vital role for agricultural workers.

The lack of transit options in rural areas, therefore, leaves many rural citizens at a tremendous economic as well as social disadvantage. Lincoln County Transit has worked for several years to develop regional linkages. Regular service to Tillamook County is in place, and in 2012, service to Benton County was expanded to seven days a week. The transit agency is exploring the feasibility of a mid-valley link on the Highway 18 corridor.

Post-incarceration re-entry

According to the Pew Center for the States report, Oregon has over 14,000 inmates in the state prison system. Below are last year’s numbers of releases into the tri-counties. According to a
report entitled “Homelessness and Prison Re-entry”, from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, people discharged from State prisons are susceptible to becoming homeless.

- More than 10 percent of those coming into prisons and jails are homeless in the months before incarceration. For those with mental illness, the rates are 20 percent.
- Forty-nine percent of homeless adults have reportedly spent five or more days in a city or county jail over their lifetimes, and 28 percent have been incarcerated in a state or federal prison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Release into Counties</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seniors**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported in 2009 that over 250,000 people aged 55 and over were in transitional housing, shelters, or homeless.

Statistics from Oregon’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, November 2011, indicate the number of homeless people 55 and older is about 20.74% of the homeless population as a whole – about 17,309 adults in Oregon. Counts for various counties are unreliable and vague at best, but what we know is that homeless elders face challenges that are very different from those experienced by younger adults or families.

For seniors, the ravages of homelessness can accelerate and magnify the effects of aging, including:

- increased physical frailty
- chronic disease
- impaired mental function
- loneliness and isolation