AN ACT

Relating to housing for individuals with mental illness; creating new provisions; amending section 9, chapter 812, Oregon Laws 2015; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Housing and Community Services Department, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority, shall disburse moneys in the Housing for Mental Health Fund to provide funding for:
   (a) The development of community-based housing, including licensed residential treatment facilities, for individuals with mental illness and individuals with substance use disorders; and
   (b) Crisis intervention services, rental subsidies and other housing-related services to help keep individuals with mental illness and individuals with substance use disorders safe and healthy in their communities.

(2) The department shall provide funding for:
   (a) A portion of the costs to purchase land and to construct housing described in subsection (1)(a) of this section; and
   (b) Up to 50 percent of the start-up costs for providing housing described in subsection (1)(a) of this section, including but not limited to fixtures, furnishings and training of staff.

(3) (a) The department shall prescribe the financing mechanisms to be used to provide funding under subsection (2)(a) of this section of up to 35 percent of the total project development costs.
   (b) The department may waive the 35 percent limit on total project development costs under paragraph (a) of this subsection for a low-cost project or to meet a critical need in a rural area.

(4) The department shall convene an advisory group to make recommendations to the department for:
   (a) The allocation of moneys between different types of housing;
   (b) The financing of housing described in subsection (1)(a) of this section;
   (c) The provision of services described in subsection (1)(b) of this section;
   (d) Soliciting funding proposals; and
   (e) Processing applications for funding.

(5) The advisory group convened under subsection (4) of this section must include:
   (a) One representative of a private provider of mental health treatment;
(b) One representative of a private provider of substance abuse treatment;
(c) Two representatives of groups that advocate on behalf of consumers of mental health or substance abuse treatment;
(d) One staff person from the department;
(e) One staff person from the division of the Oregon Health Authority that regulates mental health and substance abuse treatment programs;
(f) Two consumers of mental health or substance abuse treatment;
(g) One representative of a community mental health program;
(h) One person with expertise in developing and financing community housing projects in rural communities; and
(i) One representative of community corrections.

SECTION 2. Section 9, chapter 812, Oregon Laws 2015, is amended to read:

Sec. 9. (1) The Housing for Mental Health Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. The Housing for Mental Health Fund consists of moneys deposited in the fund under section 8, [of this 2015 Act] chapter 812, Oregon Laws 2015, and may include moneys appropriated, allocated, deposited or transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assembly or otherwise and interest earned on moneys in the fund.

(2) Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Housing and Community Services Department for disbursement for the purposes set forth in [section 8 of this 2015 Act] section 1 of this 2017 Act.

SECTION 3. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect on its passage.