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MEDIA RELEASE

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Housing secured for 343 houseless seniors through Metro 300 Initiative

Innovative new collaboration shows promise in helping address area housing crisis, coordinating with Supportive Housing Services funds

(Portland, OR) – The Metro 300 program has secured housing for 343 houseless seniors, surpassing the program’s original goal of housing 300 houseless seniors in the tri-county area. Metro 300 is led by Health Share of Oregon through a unique partnership with the tri-counties, area non-profits and Kaiser Permanente. An additional 22 individuals currently working with the program are likely to gain housing by year-end.

Beyond surpassing its initial goal, the Metro 300 program also offers an early opportunity to leverage funding from the region’s Supportive Housing Services program – showing the immediate impacts made possible when health and housing efforts are joined together.

In January 2020, Kaiser Permanente invested \$5.1 million to house 300 houseless, vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities in the tri-county region through the Metro 300 program administered by Health Share of Oregon. Health Share of Oregon collaborated with Washington County, Multnomah County’s Joint Office of Homeless Services, Clackamas County, and housing service providers to help these individuals

access safe, stable housing — while creating cross-sector collaboration and new system approaches to ending homelessness for these populations.

Thanks to funds allocated through Metro’s voter-approved Supportive Housing Services program, every client served through the Metro 300 program who needs permanent housing and long-term rent assistance will now be able to receive that support. In the coming months, an evaluation will assess the impact of the Metro 300 program to help inform ongoing health and homelessness system collaboration.

Metro 300 is the first major project of the Regional Supportive Housing Impact Fund (RSHIF). RSHIF is an innovative effort based at Health Share of Oregon that aims to align health care, housing, and philanthropic partners around a shared response to the region’s homelessness crisis that is aligned with the Metro Supportive Housing Services program. RSHIF’s initial start-up was supported by the Cambia Health Foundation, CareOregon, Central City Concern, Collins Foundation, Health Share, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health, Meyer Memorial Trust, OHSU, the Oregon Community Foundation, and Providence Health & Services.

Statements for media

Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington shares, “The Supportive Housing Services program is designed to serve our most vulnerable and at-risk community members experiencing homelessness. Thanks to innovative partners like the Metro 300 program, we are providing more homes for the houseless seniors in our community through prioritizing their health and housing outcomes one housing placement at a time.”

“The Metro 300 investment helped kick-start this effort to permanently house our neighbors who are especially vulnerable to homelessness,” said Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury. “Working in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, we’ve been able to pool our resources to immediately welcome our neighbors into homes of their own and use Metro Supportive Housing Services dollars to provide the supports people need to stay in them. Housing is health, and that holds especially true for the medically vulnerable seniors living on fixed incomes who are being served by this initiative.”

“Health equity begins with stable housing,” said James Schroeder, CEO of Health Share of Oregon. “Addressing our housing crisis is critical because without solutions, we cannot do our work to help our community get healthier. The collaborative approach — integrating health systems, philanthropy, public-private partnerships, and most importantly culturally representative community organizations — is key to addressing

this large, but solvable problem. The success of Metro 300 initiative is really exciting in that it points a way forward and shows us that there are real solutions to big problems.”

“We know that safe, stable housing is essential to a person’s health and the wellness of our community,” said Jeff Collins, president of Kaiser Permanente Northwest. “We are proud of Metro 300’s success and the diverse partners who, during the challenges of COVID-19, found new ways to accelerate access to homes for our community’s older adults who are houseless and living with chronic conditions. This lays the groundwork for broader systems change and sustainable community solutions.”

Metro 300 Service Providers

- Bienestar
- Cascadia Behavioral Health
- Central City Concern
- Clackamas County Health Centers
- Clackamas Service Center
- Oregon Department of Human Services
- Disability, Aging and Veteran Services (DAVS) of Washington County
- Do Good Multnomah
- Greater Good Northwest
- Native American Rehabilitation Association
- Northwest Pilot Project

About Kaiser Permanente

For 75 years, Kaiser Permanente has been committed to shaping the future of health and health care — and helping our members, patients, and communities experience more healthy years. We are recognized as one of America’s leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Since July 21, 1945, Kaiser Permanente’s mission has been to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 12.4 million members in 8 states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery, and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health.

About Health Share of Oregon

Health Share of Oregon is the state's largest Medicaid coordinated care organization, serving Oregon Health Plan members in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties. Our mission is to partner with communities to achieve ongoing transformation, health equity, and the best possible health for each individual. Health Share was founded and continues to be governed by eleven health care organizations serving OHP members: Adventist Health, CareOregon, Central City Concern, Clackamas County, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health, Multnomah County, Oregon Health & Science University, Providence Health & Services, Tuality Health Alliance and Washington County.

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