



**home**forward

# Home Forward's Response to Federal Actions

Date Last Updated:  
February 7, 2025

# Frequently Asked Questions | Partners & Community Members

In response to recent news reports and federal actions, Home Forward offers these answers to our partners and community members. Home Forward will update as and when more information becomes available.

## General

### 1. How is Home Forward impacted by the recent Executive Orders?

Home Forward is the public housing authority for the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Home Forward contracts with the federal government. Home Forward is not a federal agency and is not directly subject to the Executive Orders.

The Executive Orders impact federal agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which provides the rules, guidance, and funding for many of the housing and programs that Home Forward operates. Future changes at HUD may impact Home Forward in ways that are still to be determined, but no changes at HUD that affect Home Forward's operations have yet occurred.

## Federal Funding and Funding Freeze

### 2. What is the federal funding freeze?

On January 27, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), at the direction of the White House, ordered all federal government agencies to temporarily pause the disbursement of all federal grants and loans beginning January 28 at 5 p.m. ET to conduct a review of federal financial assistance.

On January 28 and January 31, 2025, in two different federal lawsuits, judges entered temporary orders to halt the funding freeze while the lawsuits are pending. On January 29, 2025, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rescinded the January 27 OMB memo.

However, we understand that federal agencies are still undertaking a review of federal programs for compliance with the President's Executive Orders.

### 3. What happens if the federal funding freeze goes through?

Currently unknown. As of February 6, 2025, the federal government has rescinded the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) memo to freeze federal funding, and two courts have temporarily halted the freeze. The court cases are still pending and the ability of the federal government to freeze payments is to be determined. However, we understand that federal agencies are still undertaking a review of federal programs for compliance with the President's Executive Orders.

#### 4. Which Home Forward programs may be affected by the federal funding freeze?

Currently unknown. As of February 6, 2025, the freeze has been halted (see question 2 above). Before this reversal, it was unclear what programs would be impacted.

#### 5. Is there anything I should do to prepare for the potential freeze or additional federal actions?

Yes. All community members are welcome to share their opinions and concerns with their elected officials. Home Forward is continuing to monitor the situation and will be providing regular updates on its website at HomeForward.org. If anything changes, we will inform all affected parties.

### Immigration Related Actions

#### 6. Will Home Forward continue to assist households that have mixed immigration status?

Yes. Mixed status households containing at least one citizen or eligible non-citizen remain fully eligible to reside in federally subsidized housing. Additional household members may ineligible non-citizens and reside in federally subsidized housing. This includes public housing, tenant-based vouchers for use in the private rental market, and project-based vouchers located at affordable housing properties. As of February 6, 2025, federal eligibility rules have not changed and Home Forward continues to serve those residents and participants. For more information about the criteria for determining whether a non-citizen is eligible or ineligible, see this [resource](#) from the National Housing Law Project.

Some of Home Forward's housing and assistance is not federally subsidized, such as buildings constructed under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program (LIHTC), locally funded rent assistance programs including Regional Long Term Rent Assistance (RLRA), and emergency or locally funded Short-Term Rent Assistance (STRA). Those units and programs have no eligibility requirements related to immigration status in place.

#### 7. Will Home Forward share immigration status information with the federal government?

Yes, Home Forward has always been required to share certain information and always shares the minimum amount of information required. As a condition of federal housing assistance, Home Forward is required to share certain citizenship and eligibility information of residents and participants. Federal law requires all prospective residents for public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers to provide signed releases of information authorizing Home Forward to share immigration status information with the federal government. The initial information is shared with the Department of Homeland Security. Home Forward is also required to regularly share updated household information with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Home Forward does not collect or share immigration status information for residents of housing that is regulated under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, by locally funded rent assistance programs such as Regional Long Term Rent Assistance, or by locally funded Short-Term Rent Assistance.

## 8. Will Home Forward allow immigration enforcement on Home Forward properties?

It is against Oregon law for public agencies such as Home Forward to participate directly or indirectly in immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. Home Forward does not allow access to private or secured areas of Home Forward properties by immigration officials without a judicial warrant. Private areas include offices, community rooms, resident units, and other spaces that are not open to the general public. Home Forward complies with all applicable federal and state laws.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### 9. Is Home Forward changing its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility programming based on the Executive Orders?

Home Forward is not a federal agency and is not directly subject to the Executive Orders. As of February 6, 2025, Home Forward has not received any new directives from HUD requiring us to modify any programs.

Home Forward, as a steward of public resources, firmly believes in upholding the principles of anti-discrimination. Home Forward's programs and activities are all in compliance with local, state, and federal anti-discrimination laws.

## Payments From Home Forward

### 10. I am a Home Forward resident or receive Home Forward rental assistance. Could I lose my housing/rent assistance?

No. As of February 6, 2025, the federal funding freeze has been halted (see question 2 above) and Home Forward's funding is unaffected.

We are keeping in close contact with our Congressional delegation, state, county, and city officials, and national advocacy groups to stay up to date and to communicate the needs of Home Forward residents, participants, and partners if the freeze were to be implemented. All community members are welcome to share their opinions and concerns with their elected officials.

11. I rent to a tenant with Home Forward rental assistance (Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher/HAP Contract). Will my rent payments still arrive?

Yes. As of February 6, 2025, the federal funding freeze has been halted (see question 2 above) and Home Forward's funding is unaffected. If Home Forward is instructed that any type of funding will be directly impacted, we will inform all affected parties.

12. I am a property owner with a property that has PBV (Project Based Voucher) units. Will PBV contracts and subsidies continue?

Yes. As of February 6, 2025, the freeze has been halted (see question 2 above) and Home Forward's funding is unaffected. If Home Forward is instructed that any type of funding will be paused, we will inform all affected parties.

13. I am a community partner who administers STRA (short-term rental assistance) payments. Will STRA programs continue?

Yes. As of February 6, 2025, the freeze has been halted (see question 2 above) and Home Forward's funding is unaffected. If Home Forward is instructed that any type of funding will be paused, we will inform all affected parties.

14. I contract with Home Forward to provide goods or services. Will Home Forward continue to pay me?

Yes. As of February 6, 2025, the freeze has been halted (see question 2 above) and Home Forward's funding is unaffected. If Home Forward is instructed that any type of funding will be paused and we would need to adjust any ongoing contracts, we will inform all affected parties.

15. Does Home Forward have enough money to pay staff salaries and benefits?

Yes. As of February 6, 2025, the freeze has been halted (see question 2 above) and Home Forward's funding is unaffected.