



Community Forum on Workforce Housing May 4, 2006

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Save Our Schools
and Playgrounds
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Ashland Housing
Commission

At this event participants worked to collectively come to an understanding of how the lack of Housing available to Ashland's workforce is impacting our community. To examine this complex issue six questions were asked of all participants. The following represents the raw comments received by the participants on one of the six questions. For the complete listing please go to www.ashland.or.us/sospforum for links to each of the questions and all the comments received.

Focus Group Question # 4:

How can Ashland employers help their workers live in Ashland?

- Educate workforce on homebuying
- Subsidized loans , low interest loans
- Employers help with transportation
- High Density rental units downtown, employers would help provide
- Parking structure slightly out of the center of town – underground parking
- City Businesses should have to pay a fee to do business here, based on sales. Seed money for workforce housing
- Take hotel/motel tax and spend on workforce housing
- Free housing for a certain amount of time for volunteer activity.
- School property managed by land trust or JCHC. Each site should be required to put on one house. - Helman (ten acres), Walker, Bellview, Lincoln along street
- Sky research may be buying houses/working with developers
- SOU schools have land, City has land
- School District employees could live there with RVDC building houses. Arrangement between school-board and landlords.
- Community wide program
- Moral Support
- Support workforce housing
- Ashland could give tax benefits to employers that provide housing for their employees.
- Loan guarantees
- Secure rental agreements
- \$150k to Shakespeare each year [City Grant] could go to workforce housing
- \$250k each year to Chamber could be lowered significantly and could go to workforce housing
- Basalt Co., has estimated costs to community of losing children
- Chamber of Commerce could advertise to recruit “young” families with children to come to Ashland and help them start businesses rather than retirees who want to live in McMansions.

- City tax credits to businesses that buy units etc.
- Consortiums of many businesses jointly create [programs/units]
- City Government could require its employees to live here and provide housing for them.
- Need radical approaches
- Annexations- Employer could have to provide housing fro its employees somewhere in Ashland
- State of Oregon should provide family housing
- Increase Density Bonuses
- Living wage ordinance tied to housing costs
- Shared Equity - Stanford University owns 20% of the houses for its employees,