



Proud Ground
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Down-Payment Assistance Grants Available in Lincoln County for First-Time Homebuyers

Proud Ground is offering five down-payment assistance grants to five income-qualified, first-time homebuyers in Lincoln County through its permanently affordable homeownership model. The grant awards range by income, from \$71,000 for a household earning at or below 120% of the area median income (\$59,076 for a household of three) and \$101,000 for a household earning at or below 80% of the area median income (\$39,400 for a household of three). These down-payment assistance grants are part of Proud Ground's efforts to bring permanently affordable homeownership opportunities to rural Oregon. These efforts are funded by Governor Kate Brown's Workforce Housing Initiative, designed to form partnerships between local communities, the business sector, and private developers to address the housing shortage for working families in Oregon. Major employers, including Lincoln County, the City of Newport, and the City of Lincoln City, have contributed funds to the program and many other local employers have participated in employer outreach to reach employees who work in Lincoln County – including Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital, the Housing Authority of Lincoln County, Lincoln County Schools, Oregon Coast Community College, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Additionally, Community Frameworks supports this initiative through its SHOP program.

“Our state has grown at a rapid pace...which brings more vibrancy to our communities and to our economy. But with growth comes growing pains, which we feel most acutely as working families try to find a home that is right for them. In all of our communities, even if someone is qualified for a job, they may not be able to live near it,” Governor Brown announced in the news release.

These funds expand a three year partnership between Lincoln Community Land Trust and Proud Ground, where Proud Ground supported the unstaffed Lincoln Community Land Trust with financial oversight, non-profit management, and community land trust expertise. In January 2019, the Lincoln Community Land Trust merged into Proud Ground. Proud Ground is the Pacific Northwest's largest Community Land Trust, a membership based non-profit that supports first-time homebuyers in becoming mortgage-ready and purchasing an affordable home. Proud Ground's Board of Directors is comprised of its homeowners and partners, including Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall. Hall remarked on Proud Ground's impact, saying, “This is the one model we've been able to find that's going to provide homeownership needs to teachers, nurses, public safety people - working families who don't have a chance at homeownership now.”

Proud Ground is a HUD-approved education and counseling agency that can help interested homebuyers qualify for a mortgage and purchase their first home. Interested homebuyers are encouraged to attend an information session on March 7th from 10:30 - 11:30 AM at the City of Lincoln City's Council Chambers (801 SW Highway 101, 3rd Floor, Lincoln City) or on March 7th from 3:00 – 4:00 PM at Newport City Hall's Council Chambers (169 SW Coast Hwy, Newport). To register, contact marita@proudground.org or call 503-493-0293 Ext. 14.

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Dreams Start Here.

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