



# Women's Initiative for Stable Housing

Women's Housing Stability through Homesharing:  
A Cost-Effective, Scalable Model



## SERVICES :



### SECURED HOUSING

HomeShare Online provides a platform for home owner's to find housemates in their area. HSO offers engagement tools to assist with finding appropriate housemate matches.



### PARTNERSHIPS

Prioritize partnership building with nonprofits and agencies that provide aging and women's services. Develop referral agreements to keep women housed.



### MENTAL HEALTH

Prevent or reduce trauma for women by keeping them housed. Living on the streets for women makes them vulnerable to physical, emotional & sexual violence.



### COMMUNITY

HomeShare Oregon builds relationships with women focused organizations to offer housemates groups to participate in to be a part of a larger community of women facing housing insecurities.

## WHY HOMESHARE OREGON?

- 70% of HomeShare Oregon participants are **women!**
- With an est. 1.5M empty rooms in Oregon, HSO works to utilize 2% or 30K rooms through home sharing
- Home sharing reduces the monthly housing costs for both participants (average rent is \$650 monthly).
- HSO provides housing stability for women while on waiting lists for assistance.
- HSO responds to over 1,500 calls and emails to assist in navigating additional resources.

**WWW.HOMESHAREOREGON.ORG**



**503-515-2397**



**SAVENIA@HOMESHAREOREGON.ORG**

# MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT AGING WOMEN!

While aging is a universal experience, women over 50 often face disproportionately higher risks of crisis due to a lifetime of gendered disparities in earnings, caregiving responsibilities, and health access. Divorce, job loss, chronic illness, and widowhood can lead to housing insecurity, mental health deterioration, and social marginalization.

## Economic Insecurity

Women typically earn less than men across their careers and are more likely to interrupt their employment for caregiving. By age 50, many women find themselves with insufficient retirement savings. The rise of ageism and gender bias in hiring exacerbates unemployment rates for this group.

- **Stat:** According to the National Institute on Retirement Security, women over 50 are 80% more likely than men to be impoverished in retirement.
- **Example:** A woman who paused her career to care for aging parents may struggle to re-enter the workforce or qualify for full Social Security benefits.

## Health and Mental Health Struggles

Chronic conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, and depression disproportionately affect women over 50. Menopause-related changes, compounded by stress and limited access to quality healthcare, can contribute to crisis.

- **Mental Health:** Trauma, Anxiety, loneliness, and identity loss (especially post-divorce or empty nest) are commonly reported.
- **Barriers:** Women of color and low-income women face compounded barriers in accessing mental health services.

## Housing and Homelessness

Older women are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population in many U.S. cities. Rising rents, lack of affordable housing, and the loss of a partner can leave women vulnerable.

- **Case Study:** In Portland, Oregon, women over 50 often appear in transitional housing programs after facing sudden eviction or spousal death.

## Violence Exposure

Homeless women experience much higher rates of domestic and sexual assaults. Women may turn to *Survivor Sex* to have protection and a place to stay. This is very traumatic for women and can create hopelessness about safety.



[www.homeshareoregon.org/donate](http://www.homeshareoregon.org/donate)  
PO Box 18222 | Portland, OR 97218 | 503-515-2397  
Executive Director – [savenia@homeshareoregon.org](mailto:savenia@homeshareoregon.org)  
Board Co-President – Homer Williams

