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The State of Our Homelessness Crisis
Prepared by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce

**EUGENE CHAMBER RELEASES NEW STATE OF HOMELESSNESS REPORT**

Eugene, Ore. (September 21, 2021) — Recently, the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce has been at the table for many homelessness conversations and is taking a driver's seat to get the needle moving in the right direction on an issue that is impacting local businesses and residents alike.

“There are systematic issues with the way we are addressing this issue that must be dealt with before more money can be effectively deployed in our community. This issue is too big for our government or nonprofit leaders to solve on their own, and as such, we need them to agree to come together with a broader coalition of stakeholders to sit at the table as equals to determine how we can do things differently. Other communities have done this effectively, we can too,” says Brittany Quick-Warner, President and CEO of the Eugene Chamber.

Over the past six months, the Eugene Chamber interviewed over 150 stakeholders in the community, including executives from nearly every nonprofit delivering homeless services, city and county staff, business and community leaders, unhoused individuals and residents. In addition, they spoke with many experts from communities across the country who made significant progress towards ending homelessness.

This work as well as strategic next steps have all been outlined in a report available to the public on the Eugene Chamber website. The Chamber compiled some of the history behind this issue

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with current data and outlined how they and others working on homelessness believe the business community can make a difference. “We firmly believe that another report is not going to solve this issue, but what we do hope it can do is educate the broader community, who we learned is frankly, losing a lot of hope that we can overcome this challenge. We also hope it can help elected leaders understand where we think some of the biggest opportunities for improvement exist. Some people think that we just need more funding to solve this challenge; our research has led us to believe that if we continue to do things the way we are doing them, no amount of money will help us end homelessness.”

You can download the report at www.eugenechamber.com/state-of-homelessness and as stated in the report’s Call to Action, “if you are interested in joining the business leaders task force, providing funds to help implement strategies to end homelessness, or offering specific technical expertise to help improve our system, please contact Brittany Quick-Warner at the Eugene Chamber to get plugged into these activities.”

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About the Eugene Chamber

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce is a catalytic leader in creating a vibrant and diverse economy that drives economic opportunity and well-being in our region. The Chamber works with partners in business, government, and non-profit sectors to create an environment that improves the economic prosperity of our region. For more information, call 541-484-1314 or visit www.eugenechamber.com.



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