



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Housing and Community Services

North Mall Office Building

725 Summer St NE, Suite B

Salem, OR 97301-1266

PHONE: (503) 986-2000

FAX: (503) 986-2020

TTY: (503) 986-2100

www.ohcs.oregon.gov



November 21, 2011

Stanley Friendship, Regional Commissioner
Social Security Administration, Region X
701 5th Avenue
Suite 2900, M/S 301
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Regional Commissioner Friendship:

Oregon Housing and Community Services is in receipt of an October 21, 2011, letter to you from Mellani Calvin, owner and program director of Disability Benefits Training & Consulting. Ms. Calvin requests policy clarification for the homelessness flagging system and the policy and procedure of its use.

As the state's affordable housing finance agency and administrator of the state's community services programs, OHCS has extensive experience providing financial and program support to create and preserve affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing for people with special needs and those experiencing homelessness. OHCS also administers federal and state antipoverty programs, including homelessness prevention and intervention, energy assistance and community services programs.

OHCS understands the crucial need SSA benefits provide to vulnerable populations, especially those with disabilities who are facing homelessness. Processing SSA claims in a timely manner is critical as it is only after benefits are approved, that options for housing and medical care increase and opportunities for recovery can begin.

OHCS supports expeditious processing of eligibility claims for persons with disabilities and the homeless so their claims are not stalled and their requests come to a favorable conclusion.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Betty Markey

Senior Policy Advisor

c: Mellani Calvin ✓