

Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)

The Oregon Legislature's proven solution for housing stability

Since 1999, the Legislature has consistently invested in the stability and prosperity of low-income Oregonians through the Individual Development Account (IDA) program. The state matches participants' own savings up to 5-to-1 to meet financial goals including homeownership.



Crystal Granger, Portland
Education IDA

The challenge: Without Legislative action in 2024, the IDA program will shrink to serve only 1,600 families during this biennium – fewer than at any point in the past 12 years.

The opportunity: A \$10-12 million general fund investment will empower an additional 600-720 families across the state to invest in their own futures through IDAs (keeping the program's service level consistent with recent years).

While over 20% of participants explicitly save for first-time homeownership, **all IDA savings create housing stability and resiliency for low-income families.** Crystal Granger (*above*) saved for higher education, which then made homeownership possible: **“The reason I’m able to make these mortgage payments is because I don’t have student debt, and it all goes back to the IDA program.”**

IDAs are administered by a network of 75 community-based organizations in all parts of the state. Since 1999, **Over 17,000 Oregonians, in 35 of Oregon’s 36 counties, have leveraged the power of their own savings for self-defined goals** – including homeownership, education, small businesses, vehicles and emergency savings. More than 2,600 people are currently saving through an IDA.

To date, \$36 million saved by IDA participants has been matched by \$68 million from the state, allocated from both tax credit proceeds and the general fund. **Without a general fund investment in 2024 the program will shrink, leaving providers unable to serve approximately 70% of Oregonians who are ready to open an IDA.**



IDA savings example

- Working with an IDA provider organization in their own community, a lifelong renter establishes an account and begins saving to purchase a home.
- Over the next year they participate in financial and homebuyer education, work to become mortgage-ready, and save \$2,000 in their IDA.
- Having reached their savings goal, the participant receives a 5-to-1 match of \$10,000 – thanks to the Legislature’s investment in the IDA program.
- The saver applies the \$12,000 total to the down payment and closing costs, enabling them to move into their new home with an affordable mortgage – and a solid foundation for long-term housing stability.



Who are IDA savers?

- \$13.8 million in matching funds was distributed in the last two years, with nearly half going to Black, Indigenous and People of Color participants.
- IDAs predominantly serve people with incomes below 80% of the area median.
- Over two-thirds of IDA savers are women (69%).
- 1 in 5 savers is between the ages of 12 and 24, and nearly half of education IDA savers are the first in their family to go to college.
- Nearly 1 in 4 savers was born outside of the U.S., representing more than 60 countries around the world.



Courtney Nolta and son, La Pine
Homeownership IDA



Tanya Golden, North Plains
Small business IDA



Jenifer Crow, Lyons
Vehicle purchase IDA