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• **Education and Outreach Initiative Project** •

Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) in partnership with the Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) received funding September 2004 under the HUD Fair Housing Initiatives Program through the Regional Education and Outreach Initiative-General Component. Over the next year, in collaboration with our community partners, **RMLS**, and **Bridges to Mobility**, we will perform education and outreach activities in Oregon and southwest Washington. Activities will increase understanding of 1) fair housing rights and responsibilities 2) predatory lending issues 3) benefits and methods of lawful design and construction for accessible housing and 4) removal of regulatory barriers for development of affordable housing, expanding the largest statewide multiple listing service database to allow the Public and real estate industry professionals to easily identify accessible features in homes for sale. Activities will target:

- Immigrant communities
- Housing developers
- Governmental jurisdictions
- The general public
- Residents of rural communities
- Real estate sales, multiple listing personnel, and agencies
- People with disabilities

Activities will include:

- Production of 9 fair housing informational programs to be aired live on cable access television in the Portland-Metro area.
- Live radio interviews to be aired throughout the state – in English and in Spanish.
- Expert presenters on both television and radio programs will address questions posed by the home audience via phone call-in technology.
- Digital videos of the television programs will be dubbed into Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Arabic and archived for Internet access on the FHCO website.
- Education and outreach regarding removal of regulatory barriers and accessible design and construction features/requirements. This information will be targeted to developers and governmental organizations in a statewide conference targeted to these groups. Presentations will be made by industry peers and FHCO staff.
- Development and implementation of an accessible feature search tool on RMLS public (consumer) and private (member) listing websites will be performed by RMLS technical staff.
- Creation and presentation of training curriculum on the benefits and methods of replicating the searchable accessible feature tool will be made by RMLS staff/leadership at the national listing service trade association and real estate industry annual conferences. This will identify RMLS as a leader in the industry for affirmatively furthering fair housing opportunity for individuals with disabilities.

By, Pegge McGuire
Executive Director