

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2025

Contact: Jessica Garon
202-866-0526, jgaron@aphsa.org

Oregon Department of Human Services Director Fariborz Pakseresht Honored with the APHSA Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award

Philadelphia, PA - The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is excited to announce Fariborz Pakseresht, Director of the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), as the recipient of the 2025 Jerry W. Friedman Human Services Impact Award. The award was presented June 2 at the [APHSA National Human Services Summit 2025](#).

Established in 2016, the Jerry W. Friedman Award honors those who have made vital contributions to the human services sector. These are individuals who demonstrate a commitment to designing integrated systems that prioritize the human aspect of service delivery, ensuring that all people have the opportunity to live to their full potential.

“Fariborz is a leader who exemplifies an unwavering dedication to advancing the mission of public human services,” said Reggie Bicha, President and CEO of APHSA. “He not only leads with vision but also with heart—inspiring change, uplifting communities, and bringing people together to create lasting impact.”

Pakseresht has served as Director of ODHS since 2017, overseeing Oregon’s largest agency with more than 11,000 staff and serving one in three Oregonians. Under his guidance, ODHS has evolved into a model of transformational service delivery. His tenure has been marked by a deep focus on innovation, and improved outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

“Fariborz is a leader who believes in the power of belonging,” Bicha added. “He works every day to build a culture where people feel seen, valued, and empowered—within his organization, across communities, and throughout the broader system of human services.”

With over 35 years in public service, including leadership of Oregon’s juvenile corrections agency, Pakseresht has consistently championed data-driven strategies, cutting-edge research, and the centering of humanity in service delivery. His influence extends beyond Oregon as a vital member of APHSA’s Leadership Council, where he continues to shape the future of human services nationwide.

###

About APHSA

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) supports leaders from state, county, and city human services agencies to advance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities nationwide. As a bipartisan membership association, they work with their members to generate pragmatic solutions grounded in lived experience. Visit www.aphsa.org to learn more.