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Wubet Biratu to lead Commission's Compliance division



SEATTLE, Wash.—The Washington State Housing Finance Commission has named Wubet Biratu to lead its Asset Management and Compliance division, overseeing a team that monitors more than 1,100 affordable-housing properties statewide.

Biratu, who will join the Commission on October 1, brings considerable expertise from her history of successfully managing affordable housing portfolios in Portland, Ore.

“I am thrilled to join the Commission and looking forward to become a part of an innovative team that is working to increase housing access and affordability,” Biratu said. “I’m especially interested in the Commission’s racial justice and equity work in housing finance and eager to lend my skills and expertise to this effort.”

Currently a resident of Portland, Biratu oversees and leads a portfolio of affordable properties at [Home Forward](#), the public entity formerly known as the Housing Authority of Portland. This work includes directing the day-to-day operations and managing the performance of 12 communities with almost 1,000 units, working in collaboration with asset managers. In her previous position of property manager at Home Forward, Biratu led a team responsible for tenant and owner relations, facilities management, and HUD program compliance. Before joining Home Forward, she was Assistant Regional Program Manager at [Save the Children](#)’s UK East and Southern Africa regional office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Biratu holds a master’s in real-estate development from Portland State University, where she also earned her bachelor’s degree in urban planning and community development. She is trilingual in Amharic, French and English.

“Ms. Biratu’s knowledge and experience will be a great asset to us as our portfolio grows and our state faces new housing challenges,” said Steve Walker, executive director of the Housing Finance Commission.

By issuing federal bonds and tax credits, the Commission has financed the construction or preservation of more than 130,000 affordable apartments across Washington state, serving residents with a wide range of incomes and needs.

The Asset Management and Compliance division makes sure this housing stays safe, decent and affordable by helping property owners and managers comply with the federal tax code and other long-term commitments (30 to 40 years) that come with tax-exempt bond and tax-credit financing.

The staff of about 12 continually monitors more than 1,100 properties in the Commission’s portfolio and provides training and technical assistance to hundreds of property managers across the state.

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The [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](#) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that brings private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington.