



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** August 7, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Application for a COHC Community Health Projects grant

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval of an application for a COHC Community Health Projects grant to create Summer Hazard Health and Safety Kits.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Central Oregon Health Council (COHC) is accepting applications for its 2024 Community Health Projects grant. Projects must address social determinants of health and health equity and be community-level interventions focused on improving community health and well-being and reducing health disparities. Special consideration will be given to projects that:

- Provide basic needs like food, water, shelter, clothing, and hygiene products
- Prioritize people from communities experiencing health disparities
- Meet the characteristic needs of the people being served
- Serve rural communities
- Locally focused
- Promote equitable access to preventative programs for marginalized communities

Projects must be community specific and locally based with a minimum request of \$100,000.

In Deschutes County, threats such as extreme heat and severe smoke are common seasonal hazards which greatly affect individuals who do not have adequate shelter and/or cooling. A common public health emergency response during extreme heat and smoke events is to coordinate cooling centers and cleaner air centers as physical spaces where people can get respite. One of the challenges with this approach is that it relies on the ability of people to travel to the center, and this can be a barrier for many individuals such as home-bound older adults or people experiencing homelessness. Previously, Public Health Emergency Preparedness launched a pilot project to distribute heat stress kits throughout Deschutes County, and the initial response was very positive. Based on a request survey to community partners we received over 1,300 requests and only had 500 kits to give away.

Deschutes County Health Services is requesting approval to apply for the COHC 2024 Community Health Projects grant in the amount of \$150,000. The term of the funding is January 2025 through October 2029.

If awarded, DCHS intends to use \$121,101 of the funding to create Summer Hazard Health and Safety Kits. Each kit will include a water bottle, electrolyte packet, sunscreen, lip balm, cooling towel, Mylar blanket, cold pack, misting fan and batteries, N95 mask, and educational booklet on signs and symptoms of heat/smoke-related illness. The items will be placed in a Deschutes County Public Health branded drawstring bag. The bags will be distributed during summer months to community partner organizations that serve people experiencing houselessness, older adults, and individuals without access to adequate cooling.

The remaining \$28,899 of the funding will support a .04 FTE Management Analyst. COHC does not fund indirect costs.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

\$150,000 revenue

**ATTENDANCE:**

Emily Horton, Manager, Public Health Program

Carissa Heinige, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator