



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Central Oregon Health Council's Community Health Project grant application

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to authorize Health Services to apply for the Central Oregon Health Council's Community Health Projects grant.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Central Oregon Health Council's (COHC) Community Advisory Council (CAC) is accepting applications for its Spring 2025 Community Health Projects grants. Projects must be community-level interventions focused on improving community health and well-being and reducing health disparities, with particular consideration given to projects that serve rural communities, prioritize people from marginalized communities, and support those experiencing health disparities. The application period is open June 1 through August 1, 2025. Minimum funding is \$100,000 per year for up to five years. Notifications will be made by October 31, 2025.

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) seeks approval to apply for COHC's Community Health Projects grant to ensure shelter beds are available for clients aged 18-29 who are enrolled in Intensive Youth Services. Integrating shelter care with the professional mental health services provided through Deschutes County Behavioral Health can have the following benefits:

1. **Reduced Health Disparities:** Shelter care facilities directly contribute to reducing health disparities by offering equitable access to essential mental health services, particularly for underserved populations, aligning with the Regional Health Improvement Plan's (RHIP) focus on closing gaps in healthcare access.
2. **Stability and Safety:** Shelter care provides a consistent and safe environment, which is crucial for individuals with mental health issues. Stability reduces stress and anxiety, factors that can exacerbate mental health conditions.
3. **Enhanced Integrated Care:** A formal agreement between DCHS and The Bethlehem Inn will be established to coordinate mental health services through holistic and streamline care pathways and improve service delivery.

- 4. Improved Health Outcomes:** By providing a structured environment for individuals to receive continuous and comprehensive mental health treatment, shelter care aligns with the RHIP goal to improve long-term health outcomes and quality of life for residents with mental health conditions.
- 5. Reducing Societal and Economic Burdens:** Facilitating recovery and stabilization through shelter care contributes to community-wide benefits, such as reduced strain on emergency services and local jails, further supporting the RHIP's aim of sustainable healthcare strategies.

If awarded, DCHS intends to contract with the Bethlehem Inn to hold three beds per night for a maximum of \$86,957 per year. \$13,043 per year will be available to cover indirect costs.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

If awarded, \$100,000 revenue per year for five years of which \$13,043 annually would be available to cover indirect costs.

ATTENDANCE:

Shannon Brister, Interim Deputy Director