



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval to accept a Community Health Project grant from Central Oregon Health Council for shelter beds for young adults, and further authorize Shannon Brister to sign the Letter of Agreement

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

- 1) Move approval of Document No. 2025-1048, accepting a Community Health Project grant from Central Oregon Health Council.
- 2) Move to authorize Shannon Brister to sign the Letter of Agreement.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

On July 23, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) to apply for the Central Oregon Health Council's (COHC) Community Health Projects grants. The grant opportunity provided a minimum funding of \$100,000 per year for up to five years. DCHS applied for \$500,000 for a five-year period; however, due to the large number of applicants received—over 75—COHC awarded DCHS \$200,000 for the two-year period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027.

Funding from this grant will be used to ensure access to shelter beds for clients aged 18-29 who are enrolled in Intensive Youth Services. Integrating shelter care with Deschutes County Behavioral Health's professional mental health services can result in 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. **Enhanced 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. Reduced 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.

DCHS intends to contract with the Bethlehem Inn to hold 3 beds per night for a maximum of \$86,957 per year for two years. \$13,043 per year will be available to cover indirect costs.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$200,000 revenue for the period October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2027.

ATTENDANCE:

Shannon Brister, Interim Deputy Director