



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Oregon Health Authority Health-Related Social Needs Capacity Building Grant

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of the application for a Health-Related Social Needs Capacity Building Grant from the Oregon Health Authority.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is focusing efforts on eliminating health inequities by 2030; one area of focus is on Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN). As part of these efforts, OHA is allowing Oregon Health Plan (OHP) funding to be utilized for climate, housing, and nutritional supports. Part of these efforts will entail expanding the number of providers who can help OHP members access these supports. OHA recently announced a grant opportunity through local Community Care Organizations (CCOs).

If awarded, Adult P&P proposes using these funds to help support clients on supervision with their housing related needs. The majority of clients on supervision are OHP members or are OHP eligible and thus would be eligible for these HRSN housing funds. Stable housing is vital to public safety, stabilization and community integration, and necessary for individual and community wellness and livability.

Specifically, Community Justice proposes using these funds to secure a consultant to evaluate the department's housing processes, suggest adjustments, and develop new processes to optimize utilization of HRSN resources. This will involve developing policies, creating HRSN billing practices, and strengthening billing and reporting/grant management capacity.

Funds are sought to procure a billing system which will enable tracking and billing for housing services. Funds would also support increased FTE capacity in the form of .25 FTE of an administrative analyst position, one full-time peer-based mentor (likely a contracted position), and .10 FTE allocation for Community Justice's business manager. The administrative analyst will play a central role in connecting clients with housing providers, fostering collaboration with landlords and property managers, and ensuring the necessary infrastructure for funding housing support is in place. They will oversee tracking and billing

processes, liaise with the consultant to refine operational procedures, and ensure compliance with grant and billing requirements for HRSN funds. The business manager will report out and provide the grant management and administrative support for the funds as well as the billing process.

The mentor would support clients in accessing services such as OHP, navigating funding assistance applications, liaising with property management companies, and facilitating rental applications. Integrating peer-based services enhances effectiveness and promotes health equity in housing access. The mentor will also acquaint themselves with available HRSN providers and assist clients in accessing additional resources to overcome barriers to housing.

As Community Justice learned of these funds near the grant deadline, the application has already been submitted. If the Board does not support proceeding, the application will be withdrawn.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$345,000 in grant funds which, if awarded, would be received and spent in FY25 and FY26.

ATTENDANCE:

Trevor Stephens, Business Manager for Community Justice

Nicoli Brower, Administrative Analyst Adult Parole and Probation