

February 11, 2026

Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
 1300 NW Wall Street, 2nd Floor
 Bend, OR 97703

RE: Economic Development for Central Oregon Budget Request

Dear County Commissioners and Budget Committee,

On behalf of Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), I am writing today to request general operating funds in the amount of \$319,249.53 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year (an increase of \$9,298.53, or 3% over this current fiscal year), which will provide ongoing support and execution of EDCO’s strategic plan and mission to strengthen communities by generating new revenue and family-wage jobs in Central Oregon.

This fiscal year Deschutes County approved an allocation of \$309,951 to support EDCO, the Venture Catalyst and local programs, a 9.5% reduction from the prior fiscal year. We are asking for a modest increase next fiscal year, in line with a conservative cost of living adjustment (COLA) related to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflationary rates of 2.7% (YOY for January). We feel this request is reasonable and prudent, especially when compared to year-over-year expenses increasing an average of 9% over the last three years. While we continue to gain efficiencies, reduce spending and grow revenue from other sources, we may be unable to adequately meet the needs of the community without this modest increase.

This request supports the work identified in our contract and unlike recent past years, does not include table purchases for the organization’s annual luncheons.

Program	Deschutes County FY 2025-2026 Contracted Amount	Proposed 3% Increase	EDCO Program Support - Deschutes County FY 2026-2027 (proposed 3% increase)
Sunriver-La Pine	\$39,200	\$1,176	\$40,376
Sisters Country	\$38,655	\$1,160	\$39,815
Redmond (REDI)	\$17,534	\$526	\$18,060
Bend	\$16,657	\$500	\$17,157
Venture Catalyst	\$44,176	\$1,325	\$45,501
Regional Office	\$153,819	\$4,615	\$158,434
Total:	\$310,041	\$9,301	\$319,342

Note: Sunriver-La Pine program funds are passed through EDCO to the City of La Pine apart from a nominal administrative charge to provide software and staff support for the position.

EDCO’s mission is to strengthen communities by creating opportunities that generate new revenue and family-wage jobs. Guided by our vision to be the catalyst for economic prosperity for all, EDCO works to recruit new employers to Central Oregon, support entrepreneurs in starting new, scalable businesses, and help existing companies grow and expand.

MOVE. We attract and guide outside employers through the relocation process as a resource for regional data, incentive, talent, site selection, and more.

START. We mentor and advise scalable young companies from concept to exit on issues such as access to capital, critical expertise, and strategy.

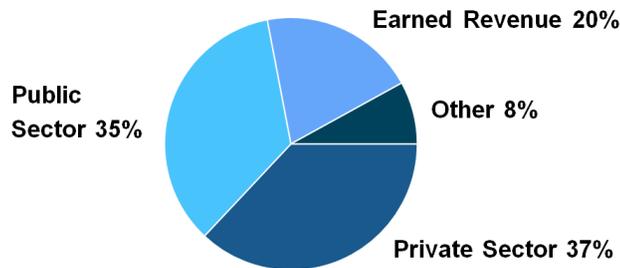
GREEN. We partner with local traded-sector companies to help them grow and expand.

Leveraged Funding

For decades, Deschutes County has played a key role in the work of economic development both through its own efforts and through contracting with EDCO for business development services to enhance and support the local business climate. By partnering with EDCO to allocate state lottery funding dedicated to economic development efforts, the County benefits from:

- Lower personnel and benefit overhead costs,
- EDCO’s 501(c)6 business organization status, which leverages private sector funding, further augmenting public sector funding (see funding mix below), and
- EDCO’s proven track record of success, efficiency and effectiveness in fostering job growth, industry diversification and strategic initiatives that pave the way for sensible growth.

EDCO's FY 25/26 Funding Mix



Investment from Deschutes County leverages more than \$6 dollars of outside funding for every \$1 spent in the form of private memberships, local and state contributions and earned revenue. In this way, public dollars are augmented to achieve better results and measurably improve the local and regional economy. Partnerships like these help us deliver results, which are garnering nationwide recognition. The region consistently receives high marks in the U.S. for economic performance and job creation from The Milken Institute, including #1 rankings for small metros four out of the past ten years (ranked 4th in 2025 and 2026), and consistently high ranking with Forbes, Entrepreneur, WalletHub, and Heartland Forward as standout places where jobs are being created and sustained.



Scope of Work

EDCO will continue to deliver comprehensive local economic development programs in coordination with Deschutes County and local communities. Services will include, but are not limited to, marketing, recruitment, retention/expansion, strategic initiatives (i.e., air service, industrial land and infrastructure development, the Central Oregon Innovation District, etc.), management of incentive programs, and further formation of public/private partnerships. EDCO will monitor programs and systems that directly impact local companies’ abilities to succeed and will encourage and support local entrepreneurship. An example of this support is EDCO’s leadership as the lead agency for the Business Oregon–funded Central Oregon Innovation Hub. As part of [Oregon’s 10-year Innovation Plan](#), we are working to strengthen the regional entrepreneur ecosystem by aligning resource providers, identifying and closing system gaps and improving founder outcomes. Through coordinated navigation, technical assistance, skill development, and capital readiness support, we help derisk investments and accelerate company growth. We will share additional details regarding this work in our budget presentation.

EDCO will administer enhanced economic development efforts by hiring and retaining the staff necessary to support individual communities. For its investment, Deschutes County receives seven FTE and a relative distribution of five additional staff delivering EDCO’s mission.

Strategic Plan

EDCO’s recently adopted three-year strategic plan (for FY’s 25/26-27/28) was built following seven months of community outreach – which included county staff and elected officials – and data analysis, supported led by a consulting contract with [EcoNorthwest](#) to complete the planning process. It includes information on target industry sectors, business development strategies, workforce development initiatives, advocacy, table setting efforts, and organizational stability. A summary of the plan can be accessed [here](#).



Return on Investment (ROI)

The organization leverages many tools and resources to accomplish the work to promote investment and job creation on the high desert. One of those tools under EDCO’s supervision is the Enterprise Zone program. On behalf of the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners, a sponsor of the three enterprise zones within the County, EDCO markets, provides technical assistance for and administratively manages these zones to help companies during times of expansion and relocation. EDCO also provides these services to Jefferson and Crook Counties.

Presently EDCO is managing 61 active Enterprise Zone authorizations in Deschutes County, which accounts for 20-30% of our Area Director’s efforts and time. These enterprise zone authorizations represent over \$624.6 million in investment and 2,147 jobs according to our records. The impending economic impact for these investments, based on the 29x formula from the [2022 Property Tax Impact Study](#) commissioned by Business Oregon, is over \$18.1 billion dollars. The 60 active authorizations in Deschutes County represent 79% of the enterprise zone activity in the entire region.

In addition to the enterprise zone program, EDCO plays an active role, with support from Deschutes County staff, in the administration of the Deschutes County Economic Development Forgivable Loan Fund (DCEDLF) program. This important tool provides a monetary incentive for job creation to growing traded-sector companies, encouraging additional capital investment in the County. To date this program has helped more than 30 companies create over 1,500 traded-sector jobs since its inception.

EDCO provides the following services to help the County execute this successful incentive:

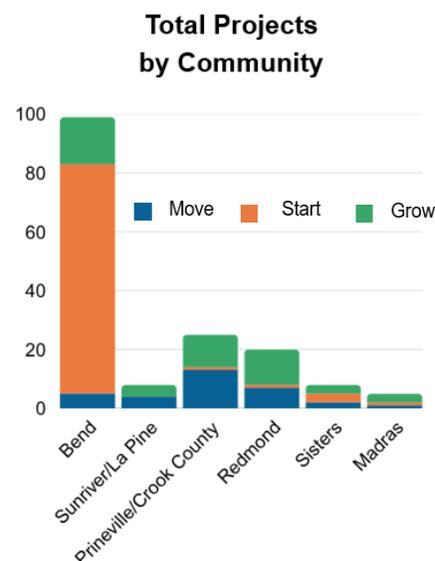
- Marketing to applicable businesses
- Application assistance
- Compensation verification

- Coordination and management of the due diligence committee
- Formation of staff reports and recommendations
- Draft loan agreements
- Quarterly reporting documentation
- Oversight of conversion process

EDCO believes programs like the enterprise zone and the forgivable loan fund are critical and help set the region apart when competing for private sector investment. We are pleased to include management of them as part of our service.

Creating a Diversified Local Economy

EDCO works tirelessly to champion a sustainable economy in Deschutes County and throughout the region. Our efforts are focused on building a robust pipeline of company projects that promise long-term stability and growth. Presently we are working with 146 company “projects” who are planning on investing over \$1.4 billion in Deschutes County, which could create as many as 3,500 new traded-sector jobs. This graph illustrates the diverse composition of our pipeline, showcasing our comprehensive “move-start-grow” strategy throughout Central Oregon.



It is no secret that Oregon’s reputation as a business-friendly State has eroded over time, exacerbated by both housing and childcare affordability, which is negatively impacting economic growth. Land prices and rising costs of raw materials related to “bricks and mortar” for companies trying to grow in or move to Central Oregon are also hampering growth. Add high interest rates as the Federal Reserve has worked to curb inflation and it’s clear there are numerous headwinds facing EDCO’s work. That said, our commitment to fostering business development by building relationships one CEO at a time has and will continue to yield results. Given these and other challenges, economic uncertainty is alive and well, and it is more important than ever to invest in economic development.

EDCO’s board and staff applaud the Commission and the Deschutes County management team for the vision to sustain and enhance support for economic development services. We believe this proposal represents a cost-effective strategy that broadly supports communities within Deschutes County and leverages both private and public investment in economic development.

I welcome the opportunity to address any questions you may have, and we sincerely appreciate your consideration of EDCO’s request.

Respectfully,

Jon Stark
EDCO Chief Executive Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Heather Kaisner, Public Health Director
DATE: February 11, 2026
SUBJECT: FY 2027 Video Lottery Funds to Support Environmental Health Services

I. DIRECTION

Health Services is requesting continued Video Lottery Fund support for its Environmental Health (EH) services. This funding helps to keep services compliant, timely, and financially sustainable while minimizing fee increases for regulated businesses.

Staff have prepared three options for Board consideration:

- Option 1 – Eliminate vacant 0.5 FTE, increase fees 2.7%, increase VLF \$22,000 (20%)
Option 2 – Eliminate vacant 0.5 FTE, increase fees 4%, VLF flat to FY 2026 (0%)
Option 3 – Maintain 12.0 FTE staffing, increase fees 4%, increase VLF \$113,665 (104%)

Staff recommend covering increased costs by reducing EH staffing from 12.0 to 11.5 FTE and through a targeted increase in Video Lottery Funds (VLF) and a modest fee adjustment.

II. BACKGROUND

Environmental Health programs protect residents, visitors, and local businesses through fee-supported and non-fee-supported activities, including work required by law and intergovernmental agreements, as well as non-mandated services. These are:

Required Functions

Food, Pool, Lodging Licensing & Inspection
Drinking Water Program
Animal Bite Follow-up & Rabies Prevention
Elevated Blood Lead Case Response

Non-Mandated Services

Indoor Air Quality Program
Food Manager & Handling Training
Consultation & Support for New Businesses
School & Childcare Inspections
Robust Response to Public Complaints
Outreach & Education: Benevolent & Congregate Settings

Assuming Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) support for EH increases by 2 percent from FY 2026, EH projects a FY 2027 budget shortfall of \$182,700, driven by higher payroll costs (market analysis outcomes, estimated pay equity adjustments, and annual cost-of-living increases) and increased indirect costs. To partially mitigate the gap, EH has implemented internal cost offsets, including reclassifying one Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) III position to EHS II, capturing vacancy savings from FY26 unfilled positions, and recommending a reduction in staffing from 12.0 to 11.5 FTE. This reduction is achievable through two operational changes:

1. Generalist Inspector Model- Implementing a generalist approach, where inspectors conduct all routine inspections within assigned areas, enhances efficiency and sustainability while maintaining service delivery and supporting fee stability.
2. Workload Reallocation- Outreach efforts and increased efficiencies have reduced staff time required to mitigate Environmental Health threats in benevolent organizations. This creates an opportunity to reallocate a portion of work within Public Health modernization to core Environmental Health operations, ensuring we maintain capacity for mandated responsibilities.

The table below displays County investment levels and EH fee increases for the past five years as well as FY 2027 County investment under Option 1.

Revenue Source	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Option 1	Comment
						2027	
County General Fund	-	-	-	-	338,519	338,519	Flat to FY26
Transient Lodging Tax	444,417	418,417	368,417	276,572	376,572	384,103	+2%
Video Lottery Funds				250,000	108,770	130,770	+20%
Total	444,417	418,417	368,417	526,572	823,861	853,392	
FTE	9.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.50	
EH Fee Rate Increase	1%	7%	10%	4% & 6%	5%	2.70%	



MEMORANDUM

Date: Jan. 27, 2025

TO: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kristine Thomas

RE: Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 Budget Request

The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce kindly requests \$50,000 from the Deschutes County Commissioners to fund the chamber's daily operations and hire a part-time employee.

The chamber values its partnership with Deschutes County to work collaboratively to assist Sunriver area businesses in numerous ways. The chamber provides a vital role in coordinating communications between the local businesses and nonprofit organizations; serves on the Newberry Regional Partnership working board to help plan the future of South Deschutes County; and supports businesses by providing resources and ideas to help them achieve their goals.

The chamber collaborates with its partners including The Village at Sunriver, Visit Central Oregon, Sunriver Resort, SHARC, Alpine Entertainment, Sunriver Owners Association and other organizations to coordinate events and shop local campaigns in Sunriver. The chamber currently serves as the coordinator bringing the above organizations together to plan the second annual Sunriver Oktoberfest in September 2026.

Since starting as executive director, I have grown the chamber in numerous ways including adding new members and new events. To continue to move the chamber forward, it will require the hiring of a part-time employee. The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce is the only chamber in Central Oregon with only one employee.

The chamber's current projects are:

- Sunriver Magazine
- Annual South Deschutes County Breakfast
- Sunriver Saturday Market and Sunriver Holiday Market
- Career Exploration Lunch
- Shop Sunriver
- Sunriver Oktoberfest
- Ornament Quest

- Weekly newsletters
- Social Media
- Website updates
- Meetings with members and chamber partners

None of this work would be possible without the support of Deschutes County. The grant provides the foundation for the chamber to do its work. The chamber's finance committee has carefully reviewed its financial needs and developed a budget request of \$50,000 for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

The request will allow the chamber to continue to offer the services mentioned earlier, including business development, education and training, and advocacy. The grant allows the chamber to continue to offer traditional services that our local businesses, visitors, and our community have come to expect from our chamber, such as business referrals, and providing promotional information about Sunriver's special amenities, recreational opportunities, and events and activities.

In summary, the Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce total budget request is \$50,000.

We are available anytime to discuss this proposal in additional detail and to answer any questions you might have. Our chamber office number is 541-593-8149 or you can email Executive Director Kristine Thomas at exec@sunriverchamber.com. Thank you for considering this request.

Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Executive Board of Directors

- Thomas Samwel, Sunriver Resort – President
- Aaron Schofield, First Interstate Bank – Board Treasurer
- Brandy Odekirk, Central Oregon IT – Secretary

Board Members

- Deschutes County Commissioner Patti Adair
- KT Ainsworth – Sunriver Brewing Co.
- Meagan Iverson – Sunriver Music Festival
- Keith Kessarlis – Sunriver Owners Association
- Wendy Teters – Dream Decks & Remodeling
- Recruiting one additional member

Advisory Board

Erin Bohan - Mt. Bachelor and Scott Larson, Visit Central Oregon

Deschutes Cultural Coalition
P.O. Box 2094
Bend, OR 97709

Commissioner Patti Adair
Commissioner Phil Chang
Commissioner Tony DeBone
Deschutes County
1300 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97701

February 12, 2025

Dear Deschutes County Commissioners:

In Deschutes County, arts and culture show up every day in everyday places, in parks and community centers, in our libraries, in galleries, at festivals, and our downtown streets. It's what makes Deschutes County feel like home.

Support from Deschutes County Matches Support from the Oregon Cultural Trust:

- 62 cultural nonprofits call Deschutes County home.
- **\$1,179,135** has been invested in Deschutes County for arts and Culture since 2001.
- The Deschutes Cultural Coalition OCT Fund / Deschutes County Fund has received over \$90,000 in requests for financial support from 15 organizations have been received for the 2026 grant cycle. This is over double the funds available for grants. As the county grows, so does the demand for arts and culture services.

On behalf of the Deschutes Cultural Coalition, a local funding and cultural support program of the state's Oregon Cultural Trust, we respectfully request a financial allocation of \$25,000 from the Oregon Lottery Fund to provide essential operating support for nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Deschutes County.

Please consider this FY 2026-2027 request for \$25,000 to DCC to continue supporting arts organizations in Deschutes County.

The DCC agrees to work with the county administration to ensure the county receives proper messaging credit and to submit any necessary reports. The DCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization EIN 88-1650979.

We thank you again for your appreciation of and support for the arts!

Sincerely,

Cate O'Hagan

Cate O'Hagan

President, DCC

CateMarieOhagan@gmail.com

541.588.0166 Cell

Eric Sande

Eric Sande

Treasurer, Deschutes Cultural Coalition

Eric@VisitRedmondOregon.org

Executive Director, Redmond Chamber of Commerce

541.749.0738 Cell



February 10, 2026

RE: Special Project Grant Recipient for Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative

Dear Deschutes County Board of Commissioners:

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) and the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) respectfully request continued support for the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC) as a Special Project Grant Recipient.

Water security is a critical and ongoing issue in Deschutes County, and the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative is the forum where all interests work together to ensure the water needs of farms, cities, and rivers can be met into the future. The DBWC consists of a 46-member Working Group that serves as the decision-making body; all decisions are made by consensus. The Collaborative's focus is on creating a Comprehensive Basin Water Management Plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin (The Plan) consistent with the State's Integrated Water Resources Strategy and the guidelines set forth in the State's Place-Based Planning Framework. Upon Plan completion, the Collaborative will coordinate around Plan implementation and serve as a continuing forum for addressing water management challenges.

With the support of Deschutes County, the DBWC has made significant progress on developing The Plan. Chapters 1 through 4, describing the planning process, the basin's water resources, the existing needs/demands, and the potential solutions, have been drafted and reviewed by the Working Group. This year, the DBWC is aiming to finalize a consensus-based Implementation Plan (Chapter 5 of The Plan), which will include projects and programs aimed at meeting instream and out-of-stream water needs. Working towards that end, the Planning Team (i.e., the group's executive committee) has discussed 85% of the tools and strategies detailed in Chapter 4, in an effort to build consensus around which will be included in the Chapter 5 Implementation Plan.

Creating an Implementation Plan involves working through many complex water management issues with a wide variety of stakeholder groups; as we near completion, the group is addressing the most challenging issues and conflict is inherently part of this process. While consensus is time-consuming, agreements made through collaborative process are lasting and durable, and hence worth the upfront time investment. The DBWC will continue to facilitate conversations between key stakeholders working to achieve consensus on water management strategies that benefit all interested parties.

While Plan completion is ongoing, basin partners continue to move strategies forward, implementing projects and programs that are achieving measurable outcomes for Jefferson County farmers and the river. Despite the uncertainty with federal funding over the last year, which has delayed the implementation of several projects, the work of the DBWC is well-known and well-respected, which continues to pay dividends in state and federal funding for project implementation.

We greatly appreciate Deschutes County's support, both in funding the collaborative, as well as providing consistent participation, including leadership in the co-chair position. Continued support as a Special Project Grant Recipient would ensure continued progress in the DBWC and would leverage other funding sources. We respectfully request \$30,000 in County investment to continue this work in 2026 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration and we are happy to provide more information or answer any questions.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kate Fitzpatrick

Executive Director
Deschutes River Conservancy



Dear County Commissioners Adair, Chang, and DeBone,

On behalf of the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP), I respectfully request \$20,000 in Special Project Grant funding for Fiscal Year 2027. DCFP is uniquely positioned to deliver direct benefits to Deschutes County by reducing barriers to forest restoration and accelerating wildfire-risk reduction across the Deschutes National Forest. Landscape-scale restoration protects residents, infrastructure, natural resources, and the regional economy.

Thank you for your FY26 support. Over the past year, DCFP finalized a comprehensive set of stakeholder-driven recommendations balancing wildlife habitat and recreation across the forest. Agreements like these establish the social license necessary for active management and that consensus that enables agencies to increase the pace, scale, and effectiveness of restoration treatments that reduce wildfire risk, sustain watershed health, and support local jobs. We also completed a 15-year monitoring report documenting significant, measurable restoration progress across hundreds of thousands of acres of federal forestland.

FY27 County funds will support two priority efforts that directly advance these outcomes:

- Community engagement and education: Countywide presentations, dialogues, and field discussions that improve public understanding of forest restoration and proactively address concerns that delay implementation.
- Consensus-based recommendations on prescribed fire: Facilitation of stakeholder agreements that reduce conflict and enable timely, science-based use of prescribed fire. This effort builds on lessons from the 2024 West Bend Pilot Project and complements a recently awarded grant supporting Deschutes County Public Health's participation with the DCFP in developing prescribed fire Zones of Agreement.

These efforts will help ensure that disagreements about forest management are resolved collaboratively and before projects are delayed by appeals or litigation. In practice, this translates into faster implementation of treatments that lower severe wildfire risk, protect water supplies, sustain recreation-based economic activity, and maintain forest-sector employment.

County investment in DCFP is leveraged and strengthens our ability to secure state, federal, and private funding that flows directly into Deschutes County. Continued partnership with the County multiplies the impact of your contribution while advancing shared priorities: public safety, ecosystem health, and economic stability.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership in supporting collaborative solutions that benefit Deschutes County communities.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Fritz", is displayed on a light gray rectangular background.

Jacob Fritz
Program Director
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

FR1ENDS of the
CH1LDREN
Central Oregon

February 9, 2026

Dear Deschutes County Administrators and Board of Commissioners:

Thank you for considering this request from Friends of the Children—Central Oregon (Friends—CO). Our mission is to impact generational change by empowering youth facing the greatest obstacles through long-term relationships with professional mentors—12+ years, no matter what. As the youth mental health crisis continues to deepen across Central Oregon, Friends—CO is expanding our capacity to deliver trauma-informed mental health support to children and families who face the greatest barriers to care.

Families in the more rural communities of our county experience overwhelming challenges accessing behavioral health services, including long waitlists, workforce shortages, and limited culturally responsive care. The children served by Friends—CO are among the most affected by these gaps. One hundred percent of our youth have experienced poverty, the majority have six or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and nearly half live in communities where access to timely mental health support is especially limited. Without consistent, relationship-based intervention, untreated trauma disrupts learning, emotional regulation, family stability, and long-term health outcomes.

Friends—CO addresses this crisis through a proven, relationship-centered model that pairs each child with a full-time, salaried professional mentor beginning as early as age four and continuing through high school graduation. Mentors spend 3–4 hours per week with each child, embedded in homes, schools, and community settings. This long-term consistency builds trust, reduces stigma, and creates an ideal foundation for meaningful mental health intervention—delivered in the environments where children feel safest and most supported.

To meet community need, Friends—CO is intentionally building our behavioral health capacity by training program staff to become Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHAAs) and Professionals (QMHPs), operating under licensed clinical supervision. Through this model, professional mentors are equipped to deliver therapeutic skill building services, including emotional regulation, coping strategies, and social-emotional skill development, while maintaining the deep, consistent relationships that distinguish our program. This approach expands the behavioral health workforce in Deschutes County, and allows mental health supports to be delivered early, consistently, and in real-world settings.

Additionally, Friends—CO provides caregiver coaching, system navigation, and crisis stabilization support that strengthens the caregiving environment and reinforces children’s mental health progress at home. This whole-family approach ensures that gains are sustained over time and embedded into long-term household stability.

As Friends—CO grows from serving 96 youth to 128 by 2028, Deschutes County support will provide critical, catalytic funding to strengthen this integrated mental health model. County investment will help sustain clinical leadership, staff credentialing, and program infrastructure that expands access to preventative, relationship-based behavioral health services, particularly for rural and underserved youth who are least likely to access traditional care.

We respectfully request \$15,000 from Deschutes County to support this expansion of trauma-informed mental health services for Central Oregon youth and families. In partnership, we will continue working to close service gaps, strengthen family stability, and ensure children have the consistent support they need to thrive and succeed long-term.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to share more about this work and explore how, together, we can strengthen mental health outcomes for children across Deschutes County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Cardwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rachel" and last name "Cardwell" clearly distinguishable.

Rachel Cardwell, Executive Director

SERVICE PARTNER GRANT PROGRAM



Service Partners are organizations that:

- 1) Provide a mandated or sole source service to residents of Deschutes County;
- 2) Were initiated, led, or created by the County; and/or
- 3) Perform services that the County would otherwise be obligated to provide

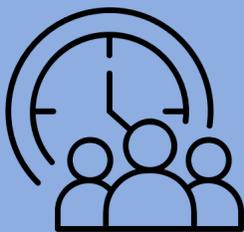
Service Highlights from July - December 2025



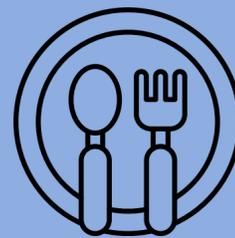
People
13,919



Volunteers
930



Volunteer Hours
17,693



Meals
150,436



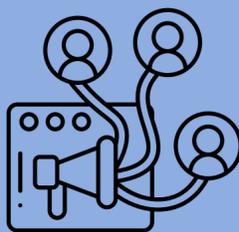
Children/Youth with ACEs
906



Contacts with Homeless
5,167



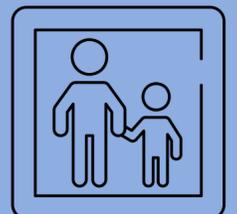
Emergency Shelter - Youth
42



Referrals/Workshops
5,828



Therapeutic Classroom Hours
1,026



Supervised Visits/Exchanges
769

- Bethlehem Inn
- Central Oregon Veterans Outreach
- Council on Aging
- CASA
- Cascade Youth & Family Center (J Bar J)
- KIDS Center
- Latino Community Association
- Mountain Star Relief Nursery
- Redmond Senior Center
- Saving Grace (Mary's Place)



BETHLEHEM INN Emergency Meal Program

2025-26 Award	\$38,658 (4 % of projected budget)
Amount Requested 2026-27	\$55,000 (5 % of projected budget)

"Inn staff and residents are grateful for the County's support of our Meal Program, which is vital to residents' health. Bethlehem Inn serves hundreds of children each year and access to proper nutrition has long term impacts on health, education, and behavior".

Community Need

We respectfully request BOCC grant funding to sustain our Meal Program, ensuring the continued delivery of nutritious meals. As a leading emergency shelter provider, the Inn serves as a critical safety net for economically disadvantaged adults and families struggling with rising food costs. Without this essential service, these individuals face a greater risk of chronic poverty and malnutrition, with few alternatives available.

The demand for our services continues to grow as more adults and families experience income loss, housing instability and financial hardship. Many turn to the Inn for support. Addressing extreme hunger and nutrition-related health issues is vital, as poor nutrition can impair cognitive function, making it even more difficult for homeless individuals to secure and maintain employment.

Impact of Current Investment

Funding supports .70 FTE of Kitchen Manager's wages to oversee the Inn's Meal Program in Bend and Redmond, which includes the training and oversight of volunteers in the preparation and service of more than 115,000 meals for 1,300 people.

During the period of July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, **807 volunteers** worked **1,616 hours** helping to serve **58,568 meals** to **671 residents**.

Request for Funding

Bethlehem Inn respectfully requests \$55,000, maintaining a funding level that represents 5% of the total Meal Program budget. These funds will support wages for .75 FTE Kitchen Manager, who will oversee the Inn's Meal Program, including volunteer training and supervision in the preparation and delivery of approximately 115,000 meals to an estimated 1,300 children and adults next year. Matching funds will supplement the additional revenue needed to cover meal program expenditures, ensuring the successful implementation of this initiative.



BETHLEHEM INN Emergency Meal Program

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Deschutes County Parole & Probation	\$2,859/month	3 beds per night
Deschutes County Behavioral Health:		
EASA	\$5,931.25/month	3 beds per night
Forensic Services	\$5,931.25/month	3 beds per night



COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF CENTRAL OREGON CASA

2025-26 Award	\$31,836 (8% project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-27	\$40,000

“When it comes to kids who are living in the system, they don’t realize how amazing it is to have a CASA. My life has changed greatly because of my CASA. I felt like someone was in my corner and made me feel supported and that my voice did matter. My CASA advocated for me when I wasn’t going to. I just want to say thank you to my CASA – for being there for me.”
– Kira Akito, youth who spent time in foster care in Deschutes County

Community Need

CASA of Central Oregon recruits, trains, supervises and supports volunteers to become Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to advocate for the best interests of children in the foster care system in Deschutes County.

Children enter foster care for many reasons, but most have come from homes where there is drug use, untreated mental illness, and housing instability. These children have experienced profound abuse and neglect and need a caring adult to advocate for them.

The number of children in foster care is increasing. In 2025, 345 children spent time in foster care (compared to 275 in 2019) and 294 had a CASA on their side (compared to 242 in 2019). Our organization is only able to serve this increased number of children with the support of the Deschutes County BOCC.

Impact of Current Investment

Funding to be used to support .6 FTE Program Coordinator TO support approximately 40 volunteers, who will advocate for over 100 children. From July 1, 2025, to Dec. 31, 2025:

- **297 unduplicated Deschutes County children spent time in foster care,**
- **CASA had 123 active volunteers, and**
- **244 children had an assigned CASA (approximately 82%)**

Request for Funding

CASA respectfully requests \$40,000 for FY 26-27 to fund .6 FTE of a Program Coordinator position. This calculation is a competitive living wage and benefits for a college-educated Program Coordinator to give individual support to each volunteer as they navigate the complex child welfare and legal systems and provide high quality advocacy for children.

National studies have shown the CASAs are effective. Children with CASAs tend to fare better during their time in foster care: 1) do better in school; 2) receive more needed services; 3) less likely to re-enter foster care; 5) report higher levels of hope and optimism about the future compared to children who do not have a CASA.



**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF CENTRAL OREGON
CASA**

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Deschutes County Justice Reinvestment Victim Services Grant	\$41,138.28 for the 25-27 biennium	Recruit, Train, and Support CASA Volunteers



COUNCIL ON AGING OF CENTRAL OREGON Volunteer Coordination of Meals on Wheels & Congregate Dining

Council on Aging 2025-26 Award \$38,658 (3.7% project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-27 \$ 50,000

“After my wife passed, people asked if I needed grief support. Honestly, what helped most was coming to dining and seeing my friends. They looked out for me, asked how I was doing, and made sure I wasn’t alone. Having that routine and those familiar faces meant more than anything.” Dick – a regular Community Dining client

Community Need: Nearly 24% of the Central Oregon population is over age 60, and approximately 20% live at or below the poverty level. Federal funding uncertainties and shifting program priorities are creating new pressures on local nutrition services as demand rises. Our Nutrition programs—including Meals on Wheels and Community Dining—are essential for older adults facing mobility, health, and financial challenges. Proper nutrition reduces falls, hospitalizations, and premature institutionalization, helping seniors remain safely in their homes. In Deschutes County, our Nutrition programs have served 961 seniors in the first six months of the fiscal year and are experiencing a 15% increase from last year—underscoring the need for reliable, community-based support.

Impact of Current Investment: From July 1, 2025 – Dec. 31, 2025 of our current FY, data indicates the following: 30,179 volunteer hours (valued at \$36.44 per hour) for Meals on Wheels deliveries and Community Dining service for a total of 102,582 meals. We could not do the work we do without our volunteers. Their contribution represents nearly \$1.1million in saved costs—resources we can redirect toward serving even more older adults.

Request for Funding: We respectfully request \$50,000 for FY2026–27 to support volunteer coordination, expenses, and food provision for Meals on Wheels and Congregate Dining. This funding will help limit waitlists and caps on new clients as demand has increased 15% since the end of the recent fiscal year amid rising food, fuel, and wage costs and reductions in federal assistance. Community Dining operates three days a week, providing nutritious meals and vital social connection for older adults.

Older Americans Act funding remains under debate in congressional resolutions, underscoring the need to secure local resources to invest in our aging population. Our partnership with Deschutes County as a Service Partner is critical to leveraging non-governmental funding sources to meet increasing costs. Without local support, programs risk service gaps at a time of rising need, leaving more seniors vulnerable to hunger, isolation, and preventable health decline.



COUNCIL ON AGING OF CENTRAL OREGON
Volunteer Coordination of Meals on Wheels & Congregate Dining

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

No.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:



CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH Homeless Outreach Coordinator

2024-25 Award \$27,288 (15% of project funding)
Amount Requested 2025-26 \$30,000

Ben, an Army veteran, and his spouse were discovered living homeless in an RV north of Bend during camp outreach. They had recently come here from out of state. After our Outreach team established a trusting relationship with the couple, they came in to COVO and met with a case manager from COVO's SSVF program for Veterans. They were then connected with VA HUD-VASH and after some advocacy on COVO's part were awarded a housing voucher, and were connected also to Deschutes County's Veteran Peer specialist who facilitated the Veteran seeing a VSO to file for his VA benefits. After several months of this coordinated case management, they were safely housed.

Community Need In 2025 COVO served a total Outreach Program client count of 1,465 with 8,313 contacts – 4,219 in our Outreach Center and 4,184 in homeless camp outreach efforts. This was a 12 percent increase from the year prior. Despite an ever-increasing effort by COVO and other service providers, the number of people living unsheltered remains high in Deschutes County. We increased our trash services, with County grant support, removing 86,640 pounds of trash from homeless camps in Deschutes County. COVO is a key partner in the Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC)/ Central Oregon Continuum of Care (CoC), serving on Coordinated Entry and HMIS committees, participating in all Coordinated Entry System case management and the Point in Time Count, and a member of the Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group utilizing funds in our CoC. In 2024 Central Oregon Veterans Village, a partnership with Deschutes County, Bend Heroes Foundation and others, increased to 22 cabins for homeless Veterans identified through our Outreach and community partners. In 2025-26 three priorities are to increase outreach to less accessible areas of Deschutes; serving age 65+ persons experiencing or at risk for homelessness; and increase outreach to women Veterans.

Impact of Current Investment Provide .6 FTE (of 1.0 FTE) Outreach Coordinator position. In the period of July 1, 2025, to January 1st, 2026, COVO:

- Made 2,257 contacts with homeless/low-income people at the Outreach Center;
- Contacted 2,523 people in camps;
- Contacted 345 individuals in less accessible areas of Deschutes County;
- Coordinated 891 volunteer hours; and
- Removed 28,080 pounds of trash from camps

Request for Funding COVO respectfully requests \$30,000 for FY25-26 to fund a portion of the outreach coordinator who oversees camp and street outreach efforts and trains and supports outreach volunteers. The coordinator works with community partners to facilitate services to individuals and enhance collaborative efforts for best serving the homeless population in Deschutes County. Key partners in outreach include but are not limited to Deschutes County Homeless Outreach Services Team, Behavioral Health and Stabilization Center, Shepherd's House, REACH, VA HUD-VASH and more.



CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH Homeless Outreach Coordinator

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

We can invoice for reimbursement for Veteran Village costs up to \$100,000 per year.

\$2,000 granted from Deschutes County Solid Waste for Knott Landfill disposal fees to dump trash from homeless camps in Deschutes County. Trash is collected every other week on regular camp outreach days, and through the week the COVO trash trailer is parked for 2 hours at selected camps to load trash. The individual campers need to be regular clients of our Outreach who agree to the safety rules set by COVO.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Deschutes County Property Mgmt.	Up to \$100,000	Veterans Village costs only-reimbursement process
Deschutes County Solid Waste	\$2,000	Landfill costs for disposal of trash from homeless camps



FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK Elton Gregory Middle School FAN Advocate Project

2025-26 Award \$15,918 (37% project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-27 \$20,000

“The advocates are so amazing, helpful, and truly kind. They care about the community and the kids.” - Local FAN parent

Community Need

FAN has been working with Central Oregon families since 1993. In this time, we have served over **200,000 children and family members** and continue to serve nearly 8,000 people each year. Our FAN advocates work closely with children and families directly in schools, breaking down barriers, so students can attend school well rested, well fed and ready to learn.

Our greatest challenge today is keeping pace with the rising needs across Central Oregon. The number of unhoused children in the region has increased by over 17% since 2024 (Point in Time Count 2025). The gap between what families earn and what it takes to live here continues to widen. More families are struggling, and more children are arriving to school without basic essentials. FAN advocates are often the first and only lifeline for families in crisis. As we continue to face reduced resources and rising needs, FAN advocates are more essential than ever, trusted by families and ready to respond, whether a child needs a warm coat, a safe place to sleep, or someone who will listen and act.

Impact of Current Investment - Grant supports .33 FTE of the FAN advocate at Elton Gregory Middle School to connect children and family members to basic-need resources.

- In the period of July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026, FAN **connected 182 individuals to basic-need resources** at Elton Gregory Middle School.
- During the fall client survey, **94%** of families reported that FAN improved their situation, and **82%** reported that FAN helped their student attend/stay in school, and **82%** of families indicated the quality of services provided by their FAN advocate was great

Request for Funding

As the world continues to shift, one thing remains clear: investing in children and families strengthens our entire community. FAN is about meeting the moment with compassion, urgency, and the belief that every child deserves stability and a real shot at success. FAN is committed to providing access to basic-need resources so kids can thrive in school and life. With support from partners and donors, FAN advocates distribute essentials such as backpacks, shoes, and hygiene kits. They prepare for seasonal needs—extra food during school breaks, warm clothing in winter—while addressing ongoing challenges like healthcare, transportation, and safe shelter. By coordinating services and removing barriers, FAN eases family stress, helps them regain stability, and ensures children can thrive in school and beyond. Deschutes County funding helps us accomplish this goal.



FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK Elton Gregory Middle School FAN Advocate Project

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Discretionary grant	1,000	Sponsorship for March 2026 FANraiser luncheon



KIDS CENTER Child Abuse Medical Evaluation Project

2025-26 Award \$27,288 (6% of project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-27 \$30,000

“We should all support KIDS Center because they help kids and families in our community who have gone through some of the worst trauma in their life. KIDS Center helps them on the road to recovery and healing.” – April Munks, District Manager, Oregon Department of Human Services

“From the minute we walked in we were treated with compassion and understanding. The space here is not intimidating and we are so thankful this place exists... we are forever grateful to them.” – Parent of KIDS Center client

Community Need: KIDS Center serves all children (birth to 18 years of age) who are suspected victims of physical or sexual abuse, neglect, drug endangerment, and witnessing domestic violence. We are also the regional Designated Medical Provider (DMP) for medical evaluations for children referred by law enforcement and other community partners. Due to our county’s ongoing population growth, the need for our services continues to increase yearly.

- In 2025, KIDS Center provided child abuse evaluation services for 539 children, an increase of over 10% from 2024. Of those, 341 were from Deschutes County.
- In addition, our medical examiners conducted comprehensive case reviews for 70 Deschutes County children who were initially seen by another medical provider in hospitals or other settings, ensuring that each of these children are thoroughly assessed by a pediatric specialist trained in child abuse evaluation.

Impact of Current Investment: This grant supports 0.15 FTE (of 1 FTE) Medical Examiner to perform medical evaluations on children 0-18 who are suspected victims of child abuse and/or neglect. In the period of July 1, 2025, to Dec 31, 2025, Kids Center Examiners:

- Performed medical assessments/physical exams for 200 children; and
- Performed 62 case reviews for children originally seen in other medical settings.

Request for Funding: KIDS Center respectfully requests \$30,000 from the Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners to continue providing highly specialized child abuse medical examinations for children in Deschutes County. As the county’s only provider of these services, KIDS Center ensures that children suspected of experiencing abuse receive medical evaluations at no cost to the families. These exams are a critical component of child abuse assessments, with medical examiners documenting findings, preparing evaluation reports, and providing expert court testimony when needed. As the cost of delivering these critical medical services continues to rise, sustained funding is essential to ensure continued access to care for vulnerable children.



KIDS CENTER Child Abuse Medical Evaluation Project

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Deschutes County Sheriff's Office	\$40,000.00	Support for child abuse evaluations.
Deschutes County JRI Funds	\$30,248.74	Intake and access to child evaluation services.



J Bar J Youth Services (JBJYS) CASCADE YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER Runaway & Homeless Youth Emergency Shelter Project

2025-26 Award	\$18,192
Amount Requested 2026-27	\$20,000 (2% of program funding)

Youth Story: At 16, Sierra became homeless after years of instability and unsafe living situations, which disrupted her education. After being abandoned by her parents when they left the state, she was referred to the LOFT's Transitional Living Program. At the LOFT, Sierra found safety, support, re-engaged in school, began healing, and was able to set meaningful goals. As she approaches 18, she is preparing for independent living through education, employment readiness, and healthy relationships.

Community Need: JBJYS's goal is to serve the most vulnerable youth by providing shelter, reducing risk, and working to end homelessness. The need for youth shelter continues to grow in Central Oregon. To utilize all our available beds, since we are a youth provider, we must maintain a high staff ratio to meet licensing and funding requirements. Recent funding reductions, Federal, State, and local, and with the future of funding being uncertain; diverse funding, especially Deschutes County support, is critical to maximize services and achieve improved outcomes for youth transitioning to stability.

The total homeless youth in Central Oregon in 2024 was 328, an increase of 24% Since 2021. Half the youth (under 25) are unaccompanied. Central Oregon is identified as one of the nation's CoCs with the highest percentage of unaccompanied homeless youth who are living unsheltered (80%).

Impact of Current Investment Provide support for .40 of 1 FTE Case Manager (.03% of 15 FTE) to support essential case management at the LOFT.

From July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025:

- **54** unduplicated youth received services.
- **42** youth accessed emergency shelter; and
- **35** youth have transitioned with **85% of transitions marked as successful.**

Request for Funding In 2026-2027, funding will provide a .40 FTE of 1 FTE Case Manager. This position provides essential case management services for youth. This funding is especially critical for sustaining the already limited shelter capacity.



**J Bar J Youth Services (JBJYS) CASCADE YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER
Runaway & Homeless Youth Emergency Shelter Project**

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026? YES

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
2025-500	\$87,600	2 beds for the Young Adult Hub Program
2025-492	\$18,192	To support the ongoing operation of the LOFT



LATINO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Healthy Families & Family Empowerment Programs

2025-26 Award	\$31,836 (4.5% project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-2027	\$35,000

“It is important that an organization like LCA exists in Central Oregon to support the Latino community. I have lived here for 10 years, and they have supported me with English classes, computer skills, and my taxes. Thank you for your services!” -Francisca

Community Need: The Latine population in Deschutes County continues to grow year after year, and with that growth come increasingly complex needs as families face barriers to employment, education, health care, and other essential services. LCA is the primary organization providing direct services to this community and connecting individuals and families to vital resources through strong partnerships with other community organizations. In fiscal year 2024–2025, we provided more than 19,000 services, with our Deschutes County offices accounting for 77% of our total impact. The services we offer include: access to and education about the Oregon Health Plan (OHP); ITIN assistance and tax preparation; employment and small business counseling; and mental health support.

Impact of Current Investment

Provide funding for 5% of 9.5 FTE supporting the Healthy Families and Family Empowerment Programs. During the period of July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025:

- 431 clients were assisted with OHP/SHIBA health insurance enrollment and health system navigation;
- 5,197 clients received information and/or referrals to achieve service goals;
- 18 community resource workshops were held; and

Request for Funding

We are requesting \$35,000 to support more than 3,000 Latine individuals who need assistance to successfully integrate and contribute to the prosperity of Deschutes County. This funding will allow us to sustain and strengthen our support in key areas such as access to health care, community resources, and employment. Grant funds will be used to support:

a) OHP enrollment and health system navigation; b) LCA internal services and referrals, including housing support and document translation; and c) workforce advancement, through education on small business development, computer skills, and English literacy. Through this investment, we align with Deschutes County’s efforts to advance the health and socio-economic well-being of all residents, guided by a shared commitment to inclusion, resilience, and long-term prosperity.



LATINO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Healthy Families & Family Empowerment Programs

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Empowering Families Luncheon (December 2025)	\$1,000	Sponsorship of our annual fundraising event - Vital services for Latine families



MOUNTAINSTAR FAMILY RELIEF NURSERY Therapeutic Early Childhood Classroom and Outreach Projects

2025-26 Award \$19,648 (2% of project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-27 \$21,000 (2% of project funding)

"MountainStar stepped in when we were barely holding it together. The staff showed up for my daughter with patience, compassion, and genuine care, and they showed up for me in ways I didn't even realize I needed. They gave us reassurance, guidance, and hope when we had very little left. MountainStar helped carry us through one of the hardest seasons of our lives. I will forever be grateful for this program and the incredible people behind it – I can never thank or recommend MountainStar enough." – MountainStar La Pine Program parent

Community Need

Deschutes County Data:

- There has been a dramatic increase in the number of children in DHS/Child Welfare.
- In 2024, there were 375 founded cases of abuse. There were 13.8 (per 1,000) children who were victims of abuse and neglect compared to 11.1 (per 1,000) in 2020. Statewide, 36% of child abuse and neglect victims were ages 5 and under (*Oregon DHS 2024 Child Welfare Databook*).

MountainStar Data:

- Average of 14 "family stressors" (such as mental health or substance abuse issues, housing or food insecurity) which can increase the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- Parents have an average Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) score of 6 (ACE score scale is 0-10). An ACE score of 4 or more predicts adverse long-term health outcomes such as increased chronic disease state, mental illness and addiction disorders, learning disabilities, and behavioral disorders.
- 94% of our client families live in poverty and 100% meet the OR state definition of at-risk.

Impact of Current Investment Grant supports 7.8% (of 3.0 FTE) Program Managers in our Relief Nursery Therapeutic Early Childhood programs in Bend, Redmond, and La Pine.

During the period of July 1, 2025 to January 15, 2026:

59 children were enrolled across Deschutes County;

85% of children met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional development; and

1,026 hours of therapeutic classroom service hours were provided.

Request for Funding

Funding will support nearly 8% of wages and associated payroll costs for Program Managers in our Relief Nursery Therapeutic Early Childhood programs in Bend, Redmond, and La Pine (3.0 FTE). Funding will support programs and needs in Southern, Central, and Northern Deschutes County. The total program costs for these three sites are over \$1 million.



MOUNTAINSTAR FAMILY RELIEF NURSERY

Therapeutic Early Childhood Classroom and Outreach Projects

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

Yes.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Discretionary Grants Program	\$250.00	Food Pantry in Bend



SAVING GRACE

Mary's Place Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Center

2025-26 Award	\$27,288
Amount Requested 2026-27	\$40,000

"My kids have said they finally feel safe now. Thank you!" "May's Place is critical to mine & my daughter's safety." "Please provide funding for this organization. They are incredible and have truly helped change many lives." "My family and I wouldn't have made it through the past few years if it weren't for you guys" "Mary's Place has been [...] the single one thing that made me feel safe. [...] I really hope there's plenty of funding and this place continues to serve those who need it." – written feedback by Mary's Place clients, 2025.

Community Need

- 479 restraining orders and 334 stalking orders were filed in Deschutes County Circuit Court in 2025. The majority of families using Mary's Place are referred by the court in connection with restraining orders and high-risk custody cases.
- From July 2025 until the end of December 2025, Deschutes County law enforcement conducted 131 high-lethality (LAP) screens at the scene of domestic violence calls and referred 77 victims to Saving Grace for services.
- In 2025, Saving Grace, the sole domestic violence and sexual assault agency serving DC supported 727 survivors with 10,081 advocacy services including safety planning, emergency shelter and legal advocacy, and responded to 2,271 helpline calls.

Impact of Current Investment: July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025: Provided .32 FTE of 1 FTE to supervise 4.68 FTE staff who provide supervised visits, safe exchanges, and case management for families that have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or child sexual abuse. In this time period, Mary's Place:

- Supervised 769 visits and safe exchanges.
- Served 51 new and continuing families (unduplicated) including 82 children.
- Reports 100% of victim survey respondents have an increased feeling of safety.

Request for Funding

Mary's Place (MP) is the only program providing free, trauma-informed, domestic violence intervention-specific supervised visitation and safe exchange for DC citizens. Mary's Place plays a vital role in public safety by protecting adult victims and children from experiencing further - potentially fatal - violence and trauma during parenting time. The most dangerous time for a victim and their children is the months directly after separating from their abuser.

- These funds are going to provide .46 FTE of 1 FTE to supervise 4.96 FTE staff who provide supervised visits, safe exchanges, and case management.
- Saving Grace no longer receives funds through Mediation/Conciliation Distribution. Other funding is difficult to obtain due to the high degree of specialization.
- The need for MP services remains high, and yet this funding decreased last year.



SAVING GRACE
Mary's Place Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Center

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026?

YES

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds
Deschutes Co Services Contract No 2025-1076 – Justice Reinvestment	\$62,917.37	Mary's Place Supervised Visits & Exchanges



REDMOND SENIOR CENTER Food for Meals on Wheels & Congregate Meals Project

2025-26 Award	\$10,915 (5% project funding)
Amount Requested 2026-27	\$ 12,500 (2% of project funding)

“Paul, my husband and I moved to Redmond to be closer to our daughter who is helping care for my husband who is a 100% disabled veteran. Our Meals on Wheels delivery is so important for both of us. Paul is not mobile and has PTSD, which makes it hard for him to be with groups. The person who delivers our food is so nice and helps us with things we can’t reach.” From Ann, an 81 year old member of the Redmond Senior Center.

Community Need Our “Meal Services Program” serves seniors in the greater Redmond area. Our “Meal Services Program (MSP)” includes Meals on Wheels delivered to living sites and daily meals served at the Senior Center. The city’s population continues to grow at an unprecedented rate with 35% of its population over age 50. We anticipate serving 43,000 meals in the 2026-27 funding period. Based on current MSP participation and its waiting list, this is a 7% increase from 2024-25.

Issues we face include the increased demand for MSP, escalating food costs, the need for more MSP trained volunteers, uncertain federal funding (which represents an average of 31% of our MSP budget), and increased labor costs. We are increasing our fundraising and in-kind support to increase our capacity to provide MSP.

2026-27 MSP goal: Increase our capacity supporting increased demand for MSP.

Objectives:

- Increase private and public funding and in-kind support by a minimum of 10%.
- Increase the number of trained MSP volunteers by a minimum of 8%.

Impact of Current Investment

Service Partner funds are critical support for MSP. During Period 1, we served a total of 23,220 meals, 52% of our annual goal. These funds help us leverage donations and grants supporting increased food costs. We have increased the number of trained MSP volunteers who deliver meals at living sites and the Senior Center, help with food preparation, and secure donations. Our Center was named the 2025 Business of the Year Customer Service Award by the Redmond Chamber of Commerce recently recognizing our MSP, wellness programs and community connection.

Request for Funding

We respectfully request a \$12,500 grant to purchase food for our MSP. Our dedicated team of volunteers, staff, board of directors, and our partners are committed to meeting our seniors' nutrition and socialization needs. The Service Partner Grant is instrumental for us delivering out MSP.



**REDMOND SENIOR CENTER
Food for Meals on Wheels & Congregate Meals Project**

Other Deschutes County Funding

Did you receive or are you scheduled to receive any other funding from Deschutes County from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026? No.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive/applied for) from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, below:

Contract Agreements:	Amount	Intended Use of Funds



UPPER DESCHUTES
WATERSHED COUNCIL

February 12, 2026

RE: Request to Deschutes County Commissioners for Service Partner Grant Funding for Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for FY27

Dear Deschutes County Commissioners:

Thank you for your ongoing support for our programs at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC). UDWC is now serving the Central Oregon community for the 29th year in 2026 after being formed in partnership with Deschutes County back in 1997. I look forward to sharing my annual presentation with you later in 2026. During this current fiscal year, the UDWC is receiving \$18,192 as part of Deschutes County's Service Partner Grant Program. This was a slight reduction from the \$20,000 we have received annually from Deschutes County for many years, due to reduced funding available and we appreciate the equitable decision that funding was reduced proportionally for all grant recipients.

This annual funding from Deschutes County is an extremely important component that supports our programs, staffing and operations. As you know, UDWC leverages the funding from Deschutes County and brings additional public and private dollars to the Upper Deschutes watershed through our work. As an example, total revenue for our most recent completed fiscal year in FY25 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) was \$1.2M with 3% coming from local governments, 25% coming as federal funding, 28% as state funding, and 45% being non-governmental grants or donations. In FY26, our proposed budget was again over \$1M, where we are again bringing federal, state and private dollars to Deschutes County through our work.

Funds from Deschutes County supports our staffing and operational costs, allowing UDWC to complete restoration projects, monitor the health of our streams and rivers, and to accomplish valuable education programs for K-12 students and community members about the importance of our rivers and streams. Most all of our programs require multiple grants or funders. Some highlights from the current fiscal year include:

- UDWC continued our partnership with Central Oregon Community College's Continuing Education Program offering adult watershed education sessions and watershed tours for the Metolius watershed and Upper Deschutes watershed in 2025. In 2026 are putting on two watershed education courses about both the Whychus Creek watershed and the Deschutes watershed including tours and field activities for participants. Approximately 75 members of our communities will attend these courses to learn about their "home waters".
- UDWC has raised state and federal funding to complete an engineering design for a fishway to allow fish to pass upstream at the Mirror Pond Dam. Engineering design efforts are underway with a goal of completing the design by the end of 2026.

- UDWC has been sharing after the Flat Fire near Sisters that the areas of Whychus Creek that have been restored over the past 10 years were more resilient to the fire compared to unrestored areas. This speaks to the value of these restoration efforts and the value of restoring our rivers and streams so they can be resilient in the face of wildfire. See at Op-Ed story in the Bend Bulletin on this topic: <https://bendbulletin-or.newsmemory.com/?selDate=20251109&editionStart=Bend+Bulletin&goTo=A04>
- In FY25 we have continued to work with public and private schools offering K-12 students the opportunity to learn about their local rivers and streams and take field trips to these rivers and streams to learn about local water resources. Highlights included delivering the “One Water” program with the City of Bend that involves educating 5th grade and high school students about the source of their water, where water goes after it leaves their home, stormwater management, and components of a healthy watershed. Also, in the spring of 2026, we will be working with Three Rivers School in Sunriver and La Pine schools to learn about the Deschutes River, the Little Deschutes River, and Paulina Creek.
- UDWC also again put on the annual Deschutes River Clean-up held on June 28, 2025 involving hundreds of volunteers in the effort. Our river cleanup for 2026 is scheduled for July 11th. <https://bendbulletin.com/2025/06/28/hundreds-join-deschutes-river-cleanup-to-remove-trash-protect-the-river/>.
- You can view our annual report for 2025 at the following link: https://www.upperdeschuteswatershedcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/UDWC_AnnualReport2025-FINAL.pdf

Funding from the Service Partner Grant from Deschutes County helps leverage funding for all the projects described above by supporting UDWC staff and our operations costs. We greatly appreciate the financial support from the Deschutes County Service Partner Program in FY26. We respectfully request continued support by funding a \$20,000 Service Partner Grant to Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for FY27.

Sincerely,



Kris Knight
Executive Director
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council



FIREWISE USA®
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Request for \$100,000 in Video Lottery funds for fuels reduction programs

Fall Fuels Reduction Program:

The County's Fall Fuel Reduction Grant Program is designed to assist communities with specific, short-term projects related to reducing fuels and improving defensible space in Deschutes County.

Preference will be given to communities or neighborhoods that are working to be recognized as a Firewise USA™ site or are currently recognized as a Firewise USA™ site and are proposing projects consistent with their Firewise action plan and community assessment.

Applicants must be working at the neighborhood or community scale (individual property owners are not eligible) to reduce wildfire risks.

A wide range of activities may be eligible for funding, including equipment rental, supplies needed for community work parties, contracting roadside chipping, fuel reduction or defensible space, and debris disposal fees.

Requests for regular maintenance (i.e. pine needle raking and removal) and ongoing operational funding that cannot be sustained beyond the grant period are discouraged.

Continued Funding Request:

In the Fall of 2025, there were a total of 68 applicants for fuel reduction grants, of which 56 were awarded. Individual grant amounts awarded ranged from \$1,200-\$4,600. Requests from all applicants totaled \$390,949.97, which speaks volumes for the program and success of the programs in Deschutes County. A total of 63 communities have been awarded through lottery and other funded fuel reduction grants since 2022. We leverage video lottery funds to acquire additional funding through agreements like the BLM Community Fire Assistance Agreement and the Buttes 2 Basin Joint Chiefs Agreement.

Deschutes County Natural Resources
61150 SE 27th Street
Bend, OR 97702



FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Spring Sweat Equity Program:

The County's Spring Sweat Equity Program is designed to assist communities with the removal of fire fuels, helping to reduce fuels and improve defensible space in Deschutes County communities. The program aims to encourage property owners to complete fuels reduction work within 100' surrounding their home/structure. This work can increase a structure's chance of survival in the event of wildfire.

Preference will be given to communities or neighborhoods that are working to be recognized as a Firewise USA™ site or are currently recognized as a Firewise USA™ site and are proposing projects consistent with their Firewise action plan and community assessment.

Applicants must be working at the neighborhood or community scale (individual property owners are not eligible) to reduce wildfire risks.

Neighborhoods and communities chosen to receive a service award will not receive the funds directly. Deschutes County will manage all bin rental contracts with the disposal companies and work directly with communities as they reduce the wildfire risk in their area. Bins are available to successful applicants for the month of May and June leading up to wildfire season.

New Funding Request:

This program has been available to Deschutes County communities through Deschutes County Natural Resources since the Spring of 2024. This program was made available by funding through an expired one-time three-year funding source by the Oregon State Fire Marshal, and partnerships with Cascade Disposal and Republic Services. In the Spring of 2025, there were a total of 45 applicants for the grant program, of which 30 were awarded. Absent an award from video lottery funding, there are no other known funding sources for this program.

We are hopeful that the BOCC will continue to support the fuels reduction efforts of Deschutes County Natural Resources.

Thank you for being an advocate and providing funding for these valuable programs.

Deschutes County Natural Resources
61150 SE 27th Street
Bend, OR 97702



February 11, 2026

Esteemed Deschutes County Board of Commissioners,

As the Regional Executive Director at United Way of Central Oregon (UWCO), it is my pleasure to submit this request to you to once again allocate Deschutes County video lottery revenue to nonprofits providing critical services essential to our County's workforce. UWCO's vetted Emergency Food and Shelter Grants (EFSG) grantmaking process ensures that County funds are distributed quickly and impartially.

Video lottery funds distributed by UWCO provide emergency assistance with food, shelter, and utilities, in addition to clothing, diapers, transportation, and disaster relief to our neighbors in Deschutes County, as well as disaster mitigation including wildfire fuels reduction. These emergency services are essential to workforce stabilization and therefore to economic development. Our expertise in distributing funds best positions us to meet the growing need for services in our community. Therefore, we are requesting \$160,000 from the County this year. We are requesting this amount because up until the last few years, that was the total amount we had available to grant out for emergency food and shelter in Deschutes County.

The community members who access emergency services funded through UWCO's EFS Grants are the essential workers we encounter every day: teachers, healthcare workers, restaurant staff, retail clerks, delivery drivers—people who work hard, sometimes at more than one job, but are still unable to make ends meet for themselves or their children.

These households can be referred to as ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE households earn more than the Federal Poverty Level but less than what is necessary to meet their basic needs in Deschutes County, often living one unexpected expense away from losing their housing and becoming homeless. Here in Deschutes County, 32% of our neighbors are ALICE—meaning they don't have enough monthly income to cover essentials: food, rent, transportation, healthcare, childcare, cell phone, and taxes.

UWCO's EFS Grants are funded by state video lottery revenue based on your allocation decision. Funds allocated to UWCO's EFSG process are put to the highest and best use throughout Deschutes County. UWCO engages a volunteer EFSG Board with expertise and/or lived experience and facilitates a proven and impartial process to review proposals from local nonprofits that provide emergency goods and services to our workforce.

UWCO has a deep understanding of the landscape of service provision in our region and works in step with the EFSG Board to ensure that resources are directed towards the most impactful, efficient, and reputable efforts. Year after year, we have consistently and reliably deployed these funds to serve our county's most vulnerable, retaining only a 2% administrative fee.

UWCO has also been the trusted agency leading the deployment of resources that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made available to support similar services in Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson Counties through the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). We follow the identical process for allocating state video lottery revenue in Deschutes County as we do for allocating federal dollars. Federal EFSP funds are still on hold this year, so we will again run the EFSG process absent of a parallel process allocating federal funds. The absence of federal funds for emergency food and shelter has created a gap that Deschutes County and UWCO in partnership can fill together.

With \$160,000 in EFSG funding from the County, UWCO will ensure continuity of funding to local organizations providing emergency services, helping to bridge the gap created by the pause in federal funding. This level of support from the County will allow UWCO to provide consistent and adequate funding to agencies serving those most in need—as we have for many years—using a trusted vetting process with a very low administrative fee. Additionally, we will again ensure that funds allocated through EFSG will not be granted to agencies that are receiving County funds directly for the same services.

EFSG funds feed people, keep them in their homes, and protect our most vulnerable residents when emergencies strike. In 2025, EFS Grants focused on emergency food access (served meals, home delivered meals, and food purchases), prioritizing agencies that buy their own food for distribution, serve children, and were affected by federal funding cuts. In 2024, ESFG funds were allocated to shelter, rental assistance, served meals, food boxes, and clothing for our low-income neighbors, including families with children, veterans, and the homeless.

UWCO's request for \$160,000 in funding reflects the increased demand for services facing institutions and nonprofits both locally and nationwide—which directly impacts the vibrancy of economic development in our County. It is our goal, as in past years, to direct consistent resources towards maintaining our workforce integrity and to help ensure no disruption in services. Each year, UWCO implements a low-overhead, reputable, consistent, and vetted process to deploy video lottery funds without duplicating funding for any Deschutes County "Service Partner" agency. With your allocation, these funds will be used to protect our County's most vulnerable citizens and help ensure that Deschutes County has a stable, fed, sheltered, clothed, and protected workforce and community.

UWCO believes that Central Oregon deserves a future where everyone can thrive, and our partnership with Deschutes County plays a pivotal role in that effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Diana Fischetti

Diana Fischetti
Regional Executive Director
United Way of Central Oregon



Deschutes County Partner Applying for FY27 Video Lottery Funds
Project: General Operating Funds
Amount Requested: \$40,000

Name of Organization	Shepherd's House Ministries
Address	1854 NE Division St
City, State, Zip	Bend, OR 97701
Entity Type	Non-Profit
State Organization Registered	Oregon
Project Contact Name	Nicole Merritt
Phone Number	541-420-0660
Email Address	nicolem@shministries.org

Program Proposal and Narrative

Organizational Overview

Our mission is to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. We were founded in Bend in 2006 as a long-term recovery program for homeless, addicted men and later added a long-term women's program. Ten years ago we launched cold weather low-barrier shelter programs in Bend and Redmond, and in the last three years we expanded these shelters to full-time including operating Shepherd's House Redmond, the Lighthouse Navigation Center, Franklin Shelter and Cleveland Commons. Today, we partner with over 50 local agencies to provide low and high barrier shelter and outreach for over 300 people a day and serve over 350,000 meals a year to the hungry, homeless and addicted.

We are under contract with the City of Bend and COIC to operate the Lighthouse Navigation Center and the Franklin Shelter. We also partner with these service providers in Central Oregon including but not limited to: Bethlehem Inn, REACH, Thrive, Jericho Road, Oasis Village, Central Oregon Veterans Outreach, Family Kitchen, BestCare, Mosaic Medical and more. We also work closely with local governments including the City of Bend, City of Redmond and Deschutes County.

Project: Homeless Outreach

The most recent Point-in-Time count in central Oregon noted a 17% increase in people experiencing homelessness (over 2,100 single adults, families and youth). To meet this

increasing need we are operating more beds for the houseless and serving doing more Outreach than ever before.

SHARE is our Mobile Outreach program that serves unsheltered people on the streets and in camps in Deschutes County. Through SHARE our staff and volunteers go out into the streets and camps to directly engage with people living on the streets and in camps. We provide rapid, direct benefits by bringing supplies, blankets, food, and clothes, as well as engaging directly with people to make connections, build trust, and provide referrals to help people access needed services and get into housing. We reach about 350 homeless people a month, or about 550 unique people a year

Through SHARE we have established partnerships with dozens of fellow local service providers by entering into coordinated efforts to provide continuum of care for unhoused community members. This includes working with mobile medical care, behavioral health, housing, case management, addiction recovery, domestic violence prevention, child welfare and local law enforcement agencies. Emergency supplies including food, water, clothing, hygiene, and sheltering resources are also distributed to unhoused community members. Over 200 different types of camping gear, 500 jackets and 2,000 gallons of propane have been dispersed in addition to food, water, clothing, and hygiene supplies that are offered daily.

Urgent Need

100% of our SHARE Program funds (\$124,000) were cut (grants not renewed). We faced drastically reducing or eliminating this program. This would mean hundreds of people a week not access these vital services.

Our board and leadership chose to continue SHARE Mobile Outreach despite the total funding loss as this is a core mission program. We cut staff and program hours, are using reserve funds, and are now making plans to bridge the funding gap.

Currently, we have reduced services from 5 days a week with two FTEs, to one FTE operating just 2 days a week. When funds can be secured we plan to sustain this program at 3-4 days to week with one FTE and volunteers. We have applied for \$45,000 in new grant funds and are seeking other sources of funds for this program.

Funds Requested: \$40,000

We consider this a vital request, core to our mission and core to providing essential services in the community. We request to become a Partner for FY 2027 Video Lottery Funds. Funds will be used to sustain the Mobile Outreach Program by providing funds for staff and the purchase of needed supplies, food and winter gear.

Outcomes

Your funds, when combined with other grants and private funds, will sustain this program at 3-4 days per week and help over 500 homeless people access essential care, winter gear, food and supplies, and most of all, provide direct engagement. This direct engagement is key to helping people build trust and then access other services and find pathways off the streets.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply.

Board List

Ken Marshall, Chair

Assistant Pastor, retired, City Center Church, Redmond
SHM Volunteer, Men's Community Homes, Redmond Campus

Chris Starling, Treasurer

Branch lead, Sr Loan Officer, Movement Mortgage (formerly Arbor Mortgage)
Active, Bend Central District Business Association

Amy Kasari, Secretary

Hospitality and Justice Pastor, Antioch Church,
SHM Volunteer, Women's and Children's Center

Mark Wickman

Family Business Counsel, Founder

HD Wedell, Education Management Professional

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Len Holmes, Recruiter

The Lakewood Group, (Retired)