

Memo

To: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

From: United Way of Central Oregon (UWCO)

Date: September 27, 2024

Re: Clarification on the Distinct Role of Video Lottery Dollar Allocations for Emergency Food, Shelter, and Clothing Activities

Dear Commissioners,

We greatly appreciate the ongoing partnership between Deschutes County and United Way of Central Oregon. The Video Lottery Dollar allocation you entrust to United Way plays a critical role in supporting emergency food, shelter, and clothing programs across Central Oregon. We understand there may be questions regarding how these funds are distinct from the allocations the County provides to other nonprofit agencies that also work in areas related to community well-being. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the non-duplicative nature of these funds and highlight how they complement the broader landscape of County support for nonprofit organizations.

1. Targeted Focus on Immediate, Basic Needs

The funds awarded to United Way are specifically directed toward addressing the most urgent basic needs in our community—emergency food, shelter, and clothing. These are life-sustaining services that meet the immediate needs of individuals and families in crisis, providing a safety net for those facing homelessness, hunger, and extreme poverty and ensuring that those in dire situations have access to these fundamental resources. Rather, the Video Lottery funds the Commissioners allocate by to other nonprofits include grants for special projects and service initiatives, supporting a broader spectrum of services, including long-term projects that address systemic issues and long-term development goals.

2. Leveraging Federal Funds with County Support

The Video Lottery Dollars from Deschutes County not only provide crucial resources for immediate needs but also allow United Way to more effectively manage and distribute federal funds from FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. These federal dollars are designated to nonprofits serving Deschutes County residents, but they come with stringent reporting and compliance requirements, which can create an administrative burden that smaller agencies are unable to manage effectively.

By having access to both County and federal funding streams, United Way is able to strategically allocate resources across the community, ensuring that nonprofits receive the right type of support for their capacity. The County Video Lottery funds allow United Way to cover critical needs that federal dollars

cannot, while also ensuring that FEMA funds are allocated efficiently. Without the County's support, many smaller nonprofits would struggle to meet the administrative demands of federal funding, limiting their ability to access that funding and to serve vulnerable populations.

3. Complementary, Not Redundant, Funding

Because we are focusing on different aspects of community well-being, the funding directed from the County to United Way and other nonprofits are complementary rather than duplicative. The funds awarded to United Way are directed toward immediate, on-the-ground relief, and complement the County's other allocations that support more sustainable, capacity-building projects.

4. Non-Overlapping Allocation Process

The funds administered by United Way are disbursed following a rigorous RFP, needs-based assessment, and allocation process led by a Local Emergency Food and Shelter Board made up of volunteers deeply steeped in emergency service provision in the County. This ensures that the funds are targeted to meet specific emergency food, shelter, and clothing needs, there is no overlap in how funds are used, and they are directed to organizations that specialize in short-term, high-impact services.

5. Limited Overlap Between County and United Way Funding

Of the 14 agencies funded by United Way through the Video Lottery Dollar allocation for Emergency Food and Shelter grants and the 17 agencies that Deschutes County funded directly, only 2 agencies received funding from both sources. Among these two agencies, only one received funding for the same efforts. In that circumstance, Council on Aging received \$4,000 from United Way's allocation process for serving 60 seniors with 11 meals for two weeks, complimenting funding from the County for Meals on Wheels.

We understand the importance of transparency and collaboration in funding decisions. Moving forward into the future, the United Way process will avoid any duplication of services when ensuring that Video Lottery funding is distributed as effectively as possible. This coordination will prevent service gaps and enhance the efficiency of how emergency resources are delivered to those in need.

Conclusion

The Video Lottery funds allocated to United Way serve a distinct and essential role in addressing immediate crisis situations involving food, shelter, and clothing. While the County's direct allocations to other nonprofit agencies also address vital community needs, they are typically directed toward broader, long-term initiatives. By maintaining these complementary funding streams, Deschutes County ensures a holistic approach to community support—addressing both immediate needs and long-term stability. Additionally, the flexibility provided by these County funds enhances United Way's ability to efficiently allocate federal funds, thereby maximizing the impact of both funding sources across Central Oregon.

We are grateful for your continued trust and support in allowing United Way to serve as a steward of these crucial resources for our community's most vulnerable members.

Sincerely,

Diana Fischetti, Regional Executive Director
United Way of Central Oregon

Agencies Funded through United Way's Emergency Food & Shelter Program & Deschutes County Video Lottery Allocation

Agency	County EFSG 2024	Video Lotto Dollars 2024	Video Lotto REQUESTS 2025
Assistance League of Bend	\$ 4,750.00	\$ -	\$ -
Bend Church (United Methodist)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Boys & Girls Club of Bend	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Central Oregon Council on Aging (COCOA) Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 42,500.00	\$ 50,000.00
Central Oregon Veterans' Outreach (COVO) Homeless Outreach Coordinator	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Central Oregon Villages	\$ 10,395.00	\$ -	\$ -
Deschutes Cultural Coalition	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Diaper Bank of Central Oregon	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Family Kitchen	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Friends of the Children Central Oregon	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Home More Network	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Therapeutic Early Childhood Classroom and Safety Net Projects	\$ -	\$ 21,600.00	\$ 22,500.00
J-Bar-J/Cascade Youth and Family Services	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Jericho Road	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Nativity Lutheran Church Food Pantry	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Newberry Regional Partnership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Redmond Senior Center - Meals on Wheels & Congregate Meals Project	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,500.00
Shop-with-a-Cop Program			
Society of St. Vincent De Paul Redmond	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Society of St. Vincent De Paul La Pine	\$ 1,755.00	\$ -	\$ -
St. Vincent De Paul Society Bend	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Evaluation Project	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
Latino Community Association- Healthy Families & Family Empowerment Programs	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Emergency Meals	\$ -	\$ 42,500.00	\$ 45,000.00
Family Access Network (FAN) - Juniper Elementary FAN Advocate Project	\$ -	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00
Saving Grace- Mary's Place Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Center	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Total	\$ 78,400.00	\$ 421,100.00	\$ 490,500.00