



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 18, 2022

SUBJECT: Consideration of Letter of Support of City of Bend's Grant Application to the Oregon Housing and Community Services

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval to submit letter in support of the City of Bend's OHCS grant application.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The City of Bend has entered into an agreement with Shepherd's House Ministries to develop and operate a Navigation Center at the city-owned Second Street Shelter. The agreement is for a term of three-years and includes the option for two two-year extensions. Per House Bill 2006 (2021), a Navigation Center is a low-barrier emergency shelter that is open seven days per week and connects individuals and families with Health services, permanent housing and public benefits. The Navigation Center is an innovative and responsive approach to challenges facing our community.

The Navigation Center will enable multiple providers to meet with clients in a single, accessible location. Behavioral health is a critical element to this coordinated service hub. By enhancing the response system, engaging early to screen houseless clients for mental health services, and offering access appointments, we hope to see improved outcomes for individuals with mental health symptoms and complex barriers.

The State of Oregon has allocated \$2.5 million to the City of Bend to create a Navigation Center. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has made another \$1 million dollars available through a grant process. As part of the OHCS grant, there is an opportunity to request additional funds to support a Behavioral Health Partnership with Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) for an embedded Behavioral Health Specialist.

Should the City secure funding for a full-time position, a Behavioral Health Specialist 1 would be hired, trained and supported by the DCHS and permanently located at the Navigation Center. The cost of the position would be \$135,000 annually, \$405,000 for three years. The City of Bend would pass through funds to DCHS to fund the position.

To support our mental health system and increase access to behavioral health services to those in need, Deschutes County Behavioral Health would like to support the City of Bend and the Navigation Center. This letter represents our commitment to support and collaborate with the City of Bend with the intention of adding a funded Behavioral Health Specialist 1 if the City's application is funded.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

No budget impact at this time. If the City of Bend obtains OHCS funding for the Behavioral Health Specialist I position, \$135,000 revenue annually.

ATTENDANCE:

Janice Garceau, Director, Behavioral Health Division