

March 17, 2025

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

**RE: Economic Development for Central Oregon Budget Request of \$350,886**

Dear County Commissioners and Budget Committee,

On behalf of Economic Development for Central Oregon (EDCO), I am writing to request general operating funds in the amount of \$337,458 for the 2025-26 fiscal year (an increase of \$16,069 from last fiscal year), which will provide ongoing support of EDCO’s strategic plan and mission to create a diversified local economy and a strong base of middle-class jobs in Central Oregon.

Last fiscal year Deschutes County approved our request for a 5% increase in funding in support of our \$2.1 million dollar budget (up 10% from the prior fiscal year, not including added local programs). This year, we are asking for the same 5% increase to support our growing expenditures related to materials, services, rent, and a conservative cost of living adjustment (COLA) related to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and inflationary rates of 3.8% (YOY for February 2025). We feel our request is reasonable and prudent, as we’ve been able to offset other budget increases through the success of our private sector funding efforts, noted in the “Leveraged Funding” section.

In addition to the operating funds requested above, we respectfully request that the County consider an investment of \$10,000 to support the launch of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database. Due to the lack of an off-the-shelf solution that meets our specific needs, EDCO leveraged in-house expertise to develop a tailored platform capable of efficiently tracking economic development activities. Existing CRM solutions, such as Salesforce, are not only cost-prohibitive but also fail to adequately capture the unique metrics and efforts required by economic development organizations. To date, we have utilized private sector funding to cover the development costs of this platform. We now seek the County’s assistance in offsetting a portion of expenses related to the implementation and optimization of this crucial tool. This brings the increase of the **total funding ask for operations and CRM for FY 2025-2026 to \$26,069**. We’ll provide additional details to the system during our Budget Committee presentation in April.

As requested, we have built in funding needs related to table sponsorships for regional Annual Luncheons, as applicable. The table below breaks down the current and proposed 2025-26 request.

Program	Deschutes County FY 2024-2025 Investment (less Luncheon tables)	FY 2025-2026 Annual Luncheon table sponsorships	# of Luncheon Seats	EDCO Program Support - Deschutes County FY 2025-2026 (proposed 5% increase)	Total FY 2025-2026 Request
Sunriver-La Pine	\$40,472	\$600	6 seats	\$42,496	\$43,096
Sisters Country	\$40,472	NA		\$42,496	\$42,496
Redmond (REDI)	\$17,346	\$1,200	8 Seats	\$18,213	\$19,413
Bend	\$17,346	NA		\$18,213	\$18,213
Venture Catalyst	\$46,253	NA		\$48,566	\$48,566
Regional Office	\$159,500	\$1,628	10 Seats	\$167,475	\$169,103
CRM Support	\$0	NA		NA	\$10,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$321,389</b>	<b>\$3,428</b>		<b>\$337,458</b>	<b>\$350,886</b>

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 focuses primarily on helping companies create jobs by doing the following, which brings in new wealth and helps the overall economy grow:

**MOVE.** Guide employers outside the region through the relocation process as a resource for regional data, incentives, talent, site selection, and more.

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

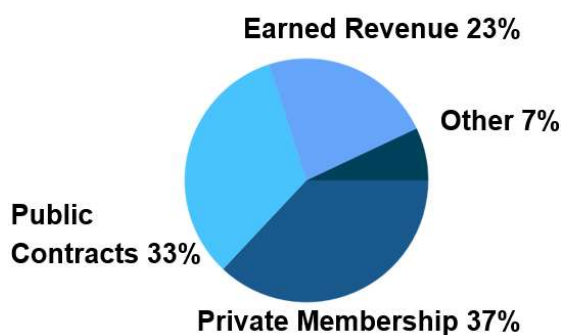
**GROW.** Partner with local traded-sector companies (those exporting products/services out of the region and importing wealth into the community) to help them grow and expand.

### Leveraged Funding

For decades, Deschutes County has been a key partner in the work of economic development both through its own operations 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 24/25 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 eight years (ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in 2025), and consistently high ranking with Forbes, Entrepreneur, WalletHub, and Heartland Forward as stand-out 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, the

Central Oregon Innovation Hub, 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 by providing a mentoring network and facilitating access to equity/growth capital among other things.

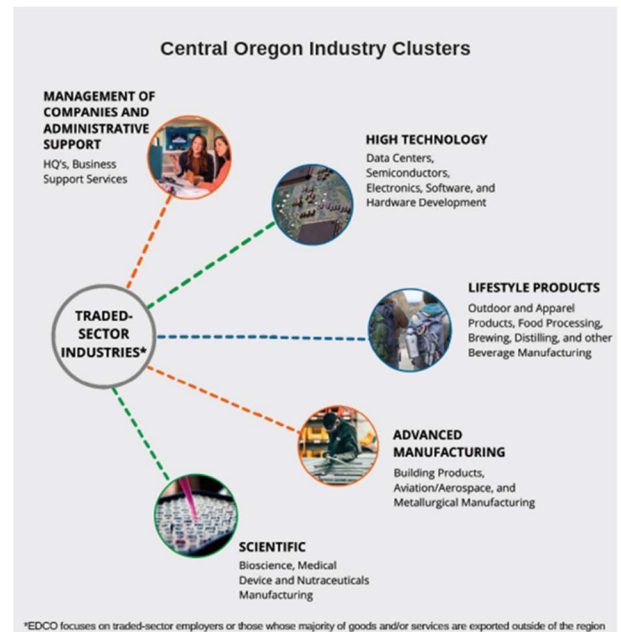
EDCO will administer enhanced economic development efforts by hiring and retaining the staff necessary to support individual communities. For its investment, Deschutes County receives seven FTE and a relative distribution of five additional staff delivering EDCO's mission.

### Strategic Plan

EDCO's existing strategic plan (FY 22/23-24/25) includes information on target industry sectors, business development strategies, workforce development initiatives, advocacy, and table setting efforts, and is available for review [here](#). Efforts are underway to develop our next strategic plan (FY 25/26-27/28), a process with which County Commissioners and staff have been and will continue to be involved.

### 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 53 active authorizations in Deschutes County that utilize the enterprise zone, which accounts for 20-30% of our Area Director's efforts and time. Over \$370 million will be invested and 664 jobs will be created based upon these companies' enterprise zone authorization forms. The impending ROI for these investments, based on the 29x formula from the [2022 Property Tax Impact Study](#) commissioned by Business Oregon, is over \$10.7 billion in Deschutes County alone. The 53 active authorizations in Deschutes County represent over 74% 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

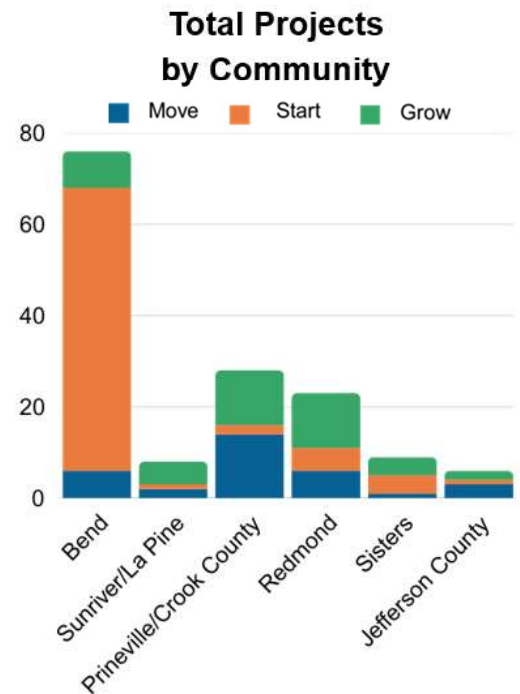
- Compensation verification
- Coordination and management of the due diligence committee
- Formation of staff reports and recommendations
- Draft loan agreements
- Quarterly reporting documentation
- Oversight of conversion process

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 126 company “projects” who are planning on investing over \$1.23 billion in Deschutes County, which could create as many as 3,558 new traded-sector jobs. This graph illustrates the diverse composition of our pipeline, showcasing our comprehensive “move-start-grow” strategy throughout Central Oregon.

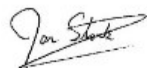
It is no secret that labor shortages, exacerbated by both housing and childcare affordability, are negatively impacting economic growth. Labor shortages are also impacting the availability and rising costs of raw materials related to “bricks and mortar” for companies trying to grow in or move to Central Oregon. Add escalated 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

**Date:** March 17, 2025

**TO:** Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kristine Thomas

**RE:** Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 Budget Request

The Sunriver Area Chamber of Commerce kindly requests \$45,000 from the Deschutes County Commissioners to fund the chamber's daily operations.

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 first Sunriver Oktoberfest in September 2025.

Since starting as executive director, I have taken great stride in recruiting new members and maintaining current members by showing the value of being a chamber member. Here is some of the work done by the chamber from July 1, 2024 to present:

- Current work and projects:
  - Publishes two weekly newsletters
  - Promotes businesses and nonprofit organizations via its social media
  - Meets individually with businesses to discuss their concerns and provide assistance
  - Work began on the third annual 2025 Sunriver Saturday Market, to be held on the last Saturday of the month from May to September. Supports more than 45 small businesses in Central Oregon
  - Creates the content and publishes the Sunriver Magazine
  - Planning the third annual Career Exploration Lunch for middle school students at Three Rivers and La Pine Middle schools on May 6

- Serve on the working board for the Newberry Regional Partnership
- Working with Sunriver Owners Association, SHARC, The Village at Sunriver, businesses in the Sunriver Business Park, Sunriver Resort, Sunriver Brewing Co. and others to host the first Sunriver Oktoberfest last weekend in September as a way to support businesses during the slow season
- Projects completed since July 1, 2025
  - Putt Putt Golf Tournament to raise funds for annual career lunch
  - Food drives/Shop Sunriver campaigns to benefit Care & Share, the local food pantry
  - Pumpkin Carving Contest – a Shop Sunriver event
  - Planned and hosted the Annual State of South Deschutes County Breakfast with the La Pine Chamber of Commerce
  - Volunteered to assist various nonprofit organizations including Care & Share, the La Pine Chamber of Commerce, SLED, Sunriver Music Festival and Sunriver Women’s Club
  - Second annual Sunriver Saturday Market and the first Sunriver Saturday Holiday Market

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 \$45,000 for the fiscal year 2025-2026, the same amount it received for its 2024-25 fiscal year.

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 as follows:

Continued Baseline Support: \$45,000

**TOTAL REQUEST: \$45,000**

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](mailto: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

Travis Downing – Sunriver Brewing Co.

Keith Kessarlis – Sunriver Owners Association - Board member

Kelly Winch – Cascade Sotheby's International Realty

Two open board members positions – one reserved for Sunriver's new police chief and one currently being recruited



**Date:** March 3, 2025

**To:** Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

**From:** Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Finance Committee, FY 2025 Funding Request

The Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests financial support from the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners. The Sisters Chamber values its partnership with Deschutes County to provide assistance to Sisters area businesses while we work to create and maintain jobs in Western Deschutes County. We have businesses in Sisters Country which encompass not only those in the city limits but the business sectors that operate outside the city limits in Western Deschutes County.

Our past partnerships with the county include providing grant funding and emergency services distributed directly to businesses and the community, promotional campaigns and events that helped alleviate economic disruptions due to decreases in economic activity and the sluggish economy in Western Deschutes County.

More than ever, the Chamber must continue to play a vital role in coordinating communications between businesses, nonprofit organizations, government and serve as a liaison and advocate to address the need for housing, public transportation, childcare, workforce development and provide additional critical support to businesses.

If our funding request is approved, the Chamber will continue business services, marketing campaigns, promotions, events, and we will also work with regional partners to coordinate and advocate for services in Sisters Country. Regional partners include COIC as we have served on the Broadband Action Team committee, State Chamber advocacy, VCO Board of Directors, Central Oregon Chambers and we also continue to support businesses and their employees looking to relocate to the Sisters area, both inside and outside the city limits.

The Chamber's plans for 2025 include providing business services, advocacy, member, workforce marketing programs and events that strengthen the economy in Western Deschutes County. The Chamber can only achieve its goals and provide services to Sisters area businesses, nonprofits and social service agencies with financial support from Deschutes County.

The Chamber's Finance Committee has carefully reviewed its financial needs and developed a budget request of \$135,000 for the fiscal year 2025. This will allow us to maintain our baseline operations while increasing the scope of our marketing campaigns, member services, promotion through our website, social media platforms and assist businesses and non-profits in the Sisters area to serve our community county-wide.



These funds will allow us to continue to offer the services mentioned earlier, including business development, education, training, and advocacy. We will also continue to offer traditional services that our local businesses and our Sisters area community have come to expect from the Chamber, such as business referrals, providing promotional information about Sisters amenities, recreational opportunities, supporting and producing events and activities that stabilize our economy.

Through the use of both social and traditional media, and other strategies, we have been able to create effective programs directed at businesses, residents and visitors that provide direct support to businesses and the community.

If awarded the grant, the Chamber will use the funds for baseline support, the Sisters Harvest Faire and promoting business. This will be beneficial to the county as the Sister Harvest Faire brings 10,000 people to the region during the shoulder season when the businesses are suffering the most. The Chamber plans to continue partnering with local organizations and supporting local businesses, non-profit events, other organizations and the community.

In summary, the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce total budget request is as follows:

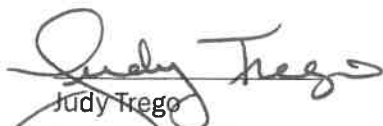
2025 Baseline Support Request:	\$100,000
Harvest Faire Event Expense:	\$20,000
Promotional Campaigns	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL REQUEST:</b>	<b><u>\$135,000</u></b>

Concerning the source of funding for the Chamber request for Fiscal Year 2025, we will leave that to the discretion of the county, recognizing that most economic development allocations come from the Video Lottery Fund, or the Transient Room Tax.

We are available anytime to discuss this proposal and to answer any questions you might have. Please call or email our Financial Officer, Turi Shergold at [turi@sisterscountry.com](mailto:turi@sisterscountry.com) or call her cell at 541-410-9513. Thank you for considering this request.

**Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Finance Committee:**

Beverly Garcia, Manager Five Pine Lodge and Conference Center, Chamber Board President  
Judy Trego, CEO, Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, President, Sisters Community Foundation  
Turi Shergold, Financial Officer, Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, Non-Voting Board Member  
Rochelle Johnson, Branch Manager, Washington Federal Bank, Chamber Vice President  
Marc Madron, Commercial Lending Manager, Mid-Oregon Credit Union, Chamber Board Treasurer

  
Judy Trego  
Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, CEO

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

March 18, 2025

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

Dear Deschutes County Commissioners:

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.

Your support comes at a critical time. The state of our nation's economy is in flux, creating uncertainty in the market and in the public mind. As with the pandemic, when individual pocketbooks tighten in anticipation of, or reaction to, a serious downturn in the market and increasing grocery prices, individual donations to arts and culture are re-allocated to essential social services. In Deschutes County we have seen this scenario play out during the recession and during the pandemic. Thanks to your previous support, our county cultural organizations are stabilizing after the pandemic. However, it should be noted that any reserves the organizations lost during the pandemic have yet been fully restored. Opening the doors to the public is the priority. A downturn in private donations will potentially have a more adverse effect on operational stability.

Please consider this FY 2025-26 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](mailto:CateMarieOhagan@gmail.com)  
541.588.0166 Cell

*Eric Sande*  
Eric Sande  
Treasurer, Deschutes Cultural Coalition  
[Eric@VisitRedmondOregon.org](mailto:Eric@VisitRedmondOregon.org)  
Executive Director, Redmond Chamber of Commerce  
541.749.0738 Cell



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March 17, 2025

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.

This year, the DBWC is working on creating 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. Creating an implementation plan with a considerable level of detail involves working through many complex water management issues with a wide variety of stakeholder groups; conflict management is inherently part of this process. Although consensus-based planning is not quick or easy to achieve, 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 to achieve consensus on water management strategies that benefit all interested parties.

Furthermore, this year, in addition to coordinating the DBWC Working Group and the Planning Team, Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) and Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) will be convening a new Groundwater Management Subcommittee. This subcommittee will focus on developing a shared understanding of the status of and impacts to groundwater resources in the Upper Deschutes Basin to identify data/information gaps and the analyses needed to help address those gaps to inform future groundwater management strategies; this information will be added to the Chapter 5 implementation plan.

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. Meanwhile, basin partners continue to build trust and move strategies forward. The work of the DBWC is well-known and well-respected, which is already paying 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 2025 and beyond.

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

Best,



Kate Fitzpatrick

Executive Director  
Deschutes River Conservancy

  
Scott Aycock

Community and Economic Development Director  
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council



Dear County Commissioners Adair, Chang, and DeBone,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP) to request \$20,000 of Special Project Grant funding for Fiscal Year '26 (FY26). The DCFP is uniquely situated to benefit Deschutes County by building social consensus and reducing barriers to forest restoration and wildfire resilience work throughout the Deschutes National Forest (DNF). Holistic restoration work at scale ultimately protects people, property, the environment, and the Central Oregon economy.

Thank you again for your funding support in FY25. Among many other accomplishments, last year's funding supported the completion of two monitoring projects in conjunction with the West Bend Prescribed Fire Project. The lessons learned from these DCFP-led monitoring efforts will improve impacts of prescribed fire application at scale, improve smoke modelling efforts and the associated operational decision-making, and inform public messaging specifically geared towards reducing community smoke exposure. The Pilot Project was ultimately a huge success in terms of acres treated, social license developed, research completed, and potential negative public health outcomes mitigated.

If awarded this year, Deschutes County Special Project Grant funds will two bodies of work which build on successes from previous years:

- 1) Work with local community members to develop and maintain social license for active forest restoration work through public engagement and;
- 2) Build consensus amongst diverse community representatives on active forest management to reduce the potential for community conflict.

County dollars not only support DCFP projects and initiatives, they are also critical in bringing state and federal dollars to the region to support active forest management. Continued support of the DCFP will be amplified by federal and state funds directly benefiting Deschutes County communities, ecosystems, and industries.

The projects that the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project will pursue with the support of Deschutes County funding will expand the ability of local land managers to appropriately implement restoration and fuels reduction work by ensuring there is adequate social support. This means that conflicts and tradeoffs are solved in meeting rooms and on field trips rather than in Deschutes County courtrooms. Ultimately, the work the DCFP is set up to accomplish reduces the risk of severe wildfire which threatens communities and infrastructure, protects watershed function critical to water supply, enhances recreational opportunities which bring substantial economic benefits to the region, and supports local jobs crucial to our communities.

Thank you very much for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Fritz". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Jacob Fritz  
Program Manager  
Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project

# FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Central Oregon

March 17, 2025

Dear Deschutes County Administrators and Board of Commissioners:

Thank you for considering this Special Project request from Friends of the Children Central Oregon. Our mission is to impact generational change by empowering youth who are facing the greatest obstacles through relationships with professional mentors – 12+ years, no matter what. Through our ground-breaking approach, we employ salaried, trained professional mentors (*Friends*) whose full-time job is to ensure the educational success, social development, and well-being of traumatized children in our community. We currently have capacity to serve 96 children, aged 5 to 11 years of age, and their families in Central Oregon; 100% have experienced poverty, 55% are living in a rural area, 10% are experiencing foster/kinship care, and each child has had six or more Adverse Childhood Experiences.

In fall of 2023, Friends-CO launched a five-year strategic plan to grow the number of youth enrolled in our program to 128, sustaining our services in La Pine while building youth-centered relationships throughout Central Oregon. We are pleased to share that in the past two years, we have enrolled 31 kindergarten-age children; sixteen of these children are residents of the rural community of La Pine. By Spring 2025, we will have completed the selection process of our newest cohort and enrolled an additional 16 youth and families.

Friends-CO is committed to providing children facing tremendous barriers with relationships, resources, and resilience to thrive, with a specific focus on engaging rural youth. Rural communities, which already faced significant disparities compared to urban settings, experienced additional challenges through virtual learning such as more limited technology access and availability of caregiver support, combined with recent increases in housing expenses and skyrocketing inflation. Expanding services to reach more youth in La Pine is a key strategic priority next year.

Deschutes County funding will provide catalytic support over the next year, enabling us to enroll our second cohort of kindergarten-age children in South Deschutes County, from Three Rivers to La Pine. During the grant period, we will complete a selection process to identify 16 children and their families and hire two new Professional Mentors to provide consistent and comprehensive one-on-one support that addresses each child's unique experiences and individual needs, supporting their long-term physical and emotional health, and breaking generational cycles of poverty, abuse and violence.

We respectfully request \$20,000 in funding from Deschutes County to support continued growth expansion to these rural communities. In partnership, we will work tirelessly to fill the gaps in service, meeting our youth where they are at, while ensuring access to resources. We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to speaking with you in more detail about this initiative. Together, we can make generational change.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Cardwell  
Executive Director



Date: March 18, 2025  
To: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners  
From: Newberry Regional Partnership and COIC

**RE: Request for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Video Lottery Funds Allocation**

The Newberry Regional Partnership (NRP) requests \$10,000 from Deschutes County to support the implementation of the 2025-2030 Newberry Country Strategic Action Plan, recently completed in February 2025. Implementation includes supporting NRP's Action Teams to initiate projects identified in the Strategic Action Plan. The funds requested will be used for securing meeting spaces, catering for events and meetings, meeting supplies, and outreach materials.

**NRP Background**

Newberry Regional Partnership was developed in 2023 by a group of public organizations and private citizens with the goal of developing a long-range plan for growth in South Deschutes County and North Klamath County. The Partnership includes individuals representing City of La Pine, Sunriver and La Pine Chambers of Commerce, Sunriver Owners Association, La Pine-Sunriver Habitat for Humanity, Deschutes County Community Development, St. Charles, Oregon Community Foundation, La Pine Community Health Center, Sunriver La Pine Economic Development, Vic Russell Construction, Inc., First Interstate Bank, Sunriver Women's Club, South County Collaborative, Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, Midstate Electric, Sunriver Resort, VisitBend, and the La Pine Rural Fire Protection District.

NRP grew from a need for community members both within and outside of La Pine's limits to express their concerns and visions for their community's future, and to provide a path for civic engagement and education. La Pine is the newest incorporated city in Oregon and second-fastest growing city in both the State and Central Oregon. Residents understand the need for community-led action and have proven to be energized around making their community a better place for everyone to live and work during this time of immense growth and change. Since 2023, NRP has worked to address these concerns and channel community energy with limited funding through an extensive engagement process, including the community survey, Civic Engagement Series, and focus groups. This work provided a solid foundation for a comprehensive, community-led Strategic Action Plan.

COIC and NRP contracted with consultants Steven Ames and Steve Maher in May 2024, and over the past nine months the project team undertook a major strategic planning effort. The team analyzed and summarized previously collected community input, conducted site-visits in South County, drafted strategy ideas, conducted a community poll based on specific strategy ideas, crafted community vision and values statements, finalized the strategies, and hosted the Newberry Country Action Summit in November. This process ensured that community input and vision was the central structure to the SAP. After an in-depth review process with key stakeholders and partners, the plan is finalized and ready for implementation. The SAP is organized into seven focus areas, Resilient, Livable, Sustainable, Thriving, Prosperous, Inspired, and Vibrant. Each has a vision statement that sets the intention for the community and guides the strategies.



During the development of the Strategic Action Plan, NRP worked on becoming an official non-profit. NRP is registered with the State and is waiting to hear back from the IRS on the status of its 501(c)3 tax-exemption application. Over the past two years, NRP has solidified itself as a hub for civic engagement, cross-organizational collaboration, and community-led action in the region.

### **NRP Organizational Structure**

NRP's Board of Directors guides and facilitates the work of the organization. They are guided by NRP's values of collaboration, transparency, and community-based leadership. The NRP Working Group is composed of the regional representatives mentioned above. They have been an integral part of NRP's work, advising the direction of the organization, assisting with facilitating community meetings, and reviewing the SAP and recommending its adoption. NRP's Action Teams are centered around the seven focus areas identified in the Plan. They will serve as the lead implementors of specific SAP projects and initiatives and are organized around individual strategies and the plan's seven focus areas.

### **Project Description**

Implementing the identified Strategies requires continued collaboration between NRP's Working Group, its Action Teams, and the community at-large. NRP is a volunteer-run organization and has graciously received funding from many partners, including The Ford Family Foundation, OCF, COIC, Deschutes County, the City of La Pine, St. Charles, Habitat for Humanity, and the Roundhouse Foundation. At present, NRP requires resources to support the implementation of the Strategies, which are often complex, multifaceted collaborative efforts that will require time to implement. NRP has found that making progress on these types of initiatives requires regular collaboration in-person, with key parties present. Deschutes County's support in moving these strategies forward will have a direct impact on the well-being of South Deschutes County residents. In 11 of the plan's 27 strategies, Deschutes County is identified as a Lead Partner, a title that is not binding, but does represent the immense potential for the County's collaboration with the plan's implementation. The 11 strategies include:

#### Resilient Newberry: Plan for Wildfire & Public Safety

- R.1 Expand Funding and Education for Wildfire Preparedness and Prevention.
- R.2 Coordinate Efforts to Address Illegal Camping on Public Lands.
- R.3 Investigate Improvement to Wildfire Evacuation Routes and Signage.

#### Livable Newberry: Plan for Growth, Planning, and Infrastructure

- L.1 Implement Traffic Safety Improvements for Major Roads, Arterials, and Access to Highway 97.
- L.4 Improve Cell Tower Capacity and Internet Access across Newberry Country.

#### Sustainable Newberry: Plan for Environment, Natural Resources, and Outdoor Recreation

- S.1 Assist Property Owners in Retrofitting Septic Systems.
- S.2 Clean Up Trash and Garbage from Forested Areas.
- S.4 Expand Curbside and Drop-Off Recycling Services in Sunriver, Three Rivers and La Pine Areas.





Thriving Newberry: Plan for Health, Wellness, and Human Services

- T.3 Expand Behavioral Health Services throughout Newberry County.
- T.5 Coordinate with Regional Partners to Stabilize Unhoused Populations.

Prosperous Newberry: Plan for Jobs and Economic Development

- P.2 Develop Affordable and Workforce Housing and Supportive Infrastructure for Working Families.

NRP looks forward to further collaboration with Deschutes County to identify how to best prioritize and structure the implementation of the strategies. Multiple Action Teams have begun working without funding on these strategies in coordination with the County, including R.1, R.2, and S.2. These teams demonstrate that this motivated community of residents and partners need additional support to deepen their impact. This funding will support implementation by providing seed funding for projects which would include purchasing supplies and equipment, hosting community meetings, and working with donors to leverage additional funds.

There is an undeniable desire for community-led action in South Deschutes County. As partners in community development, NRP is eager to seize this opportunity to make sustainable positive changes in South Deschutes County for the good of future generations.

The Newberry Regional Partnership thanks the Deschutes County Commissioners for their consideration of their proposal and look forward to working with the Commissioners in the future.

Geoff Wullschlager, Board President, Newberry Regional Partnership  
City Manager, City of La Pine

Julia Baumgartner, Board Secretary, Newberry Regional Partnership  
Community Development Programs Manager, COIC Community & Economic Development

Nicholas Tierney, Board Treasurer, Newberry Regional Partnership  
Program Coordinator, COIC Community & Economic Development



Date: March 18, 2025  
To: Deschutes County Board of Commissioners  
From: Newberry Regional Partnership and COIC  
**RE: Request for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Video Lottery Funds Allocation**

Attachments:

Attachments included with this proposal are as follows:

1. NRP Organizational Budget
2. NRP 2025-2030 Strategic Action Plan

<b>Newberry Regional Partnership</b>		<b>July 2025 - June 2026</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Grants</b> <i>(committed, planned, pending)</i>		
The Ford Family Foundation	\$10,000	Committed
Oregon Community Foundation	\$15,000	Planned - requesting in fall
Roundhouse Foundation	\$30,000	Planned - requesting in June
St. Charles Health Systems	\$15,000	Planned - will apply at future date
Deschutes County	\$10,000	Planned - this request
City of La Pine	\$10,000	Planned - requesting in May
Reser Family Foundation	\$10,000	Planned - process of applying
Midstate Roundup	\$2,500	Planned - process of applying
Ist Interstate Foundation	\$10,000	Planned - process of applying
Rotary of la Pine Sunriver	\$5,000	Planned - will apply at future date
<b>Community Support</b>		
Sponsorships		TBD
<b>In Kind Support</b>		
Sunriver Owners Association (SROA) - facility space for community meetings	\$3,000	Committed
COIC Rural Community Building staff time	\$10,000	Planned
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$130,500</b>	

<b>EXPENSE</b>		
<b>Program Operations</b>		
NRP Community Coordinator (Consultant)	\$72,000	<b>28 hours/week @ \$50/hour</b>
Community Final Celebration - part of Strategic Plan, provision of food and childcare	\$5,500	
Legal/CPA fees	\$6,000	
Community outreach - community website, promotional materials (mailers, flyers, paid social media) for engagement with Strategic Action Planning	\$15,000	
Bookeeping and tax prep	\$7,000	
Strategic Action Plan Implementation - seed money for community projects	\$30,000	\$10,000 from Deschutes County would fund this line item

Organizational development - staff, advisory groups, facilities, consultants, grants/donations	\$20,000	
Programming - hosting community meetings, speaker series	\$10,000	
Admin costs	\$3,500	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$169,000</b>	



## BETHLEHEM INN Emergency Meal Program

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$42,500 (5% of projected budget)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$45,000 (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. Food insecurity leads to negative health outcomes, making access to nutritious meals essential for Inn participants as they work toward stability and independence."

### 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 100,000 meals for 1,000 people.

During the period of July 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, **589 volunteers** worked **2,377 hours** helping to serve **60,009 meals** to **597 residents**.

### Request for Funding

Bethlehem Inn respectfully requests \$45,000, 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 120,000 meals to an estimated 1,100 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Deschutes County Parole & Probation	\$6,706.87/month	7 beds per night
Deschutes County Behavioral Health:		
EASA	\$5,931/month	3 beds per night
Forensic Services	\$5,748.75/month	3 beds per night



## COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES OF CENTRAL OREGON CASA

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$35,000 (8% project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$40,000

"With over 30 years of K-12 educational experience, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that one caring adult can have on a child's life, especially when the child has a history of adverse childhood experiences (ACES). The work of CASA provides support and trust for children at a time when they need it most." - Jim Boen, Educator and CASA Board Member

### 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 who have experienced abuse or neglect and are placed in the foster care system in Deschutes County. Once a child is in foster care, decisions about the child are made by case workers and a judge. CASAs get to know everyone in the child's life and advocate for the child in the courtroom and the community. CASA is mandated by Oregon law to serve all children in foster care but are only funded by the state to serve about 18% of children in Deschutes County.

The number of children in foster care is increasing. In 2024, 331 children spent time in foster care, up from 275 children in 2019. In 2023, 139 CASA volunteers advocated for children in Deschutes County, up from 119 volunteers in 2019. Our organization consistently serves about 85% of children in foster care, compared to the state average of 55%.

### Impact of Current Investment

Funding to be used to support 7% of .8 FTE Program Director and 3.75 FTE Program Coordinators who support approximately 40 volunteers, who will advocate for over 100 children. From July 1, 2024, to February 20, 2025:

- **268 unduplicated Deschutes County children spent time in foster care,**
- **CASA had 120 active volunteers, and**
- **226 children had an assigned CASA (approximately 84%)**

### Request for Funding

CASA respectfully requests \$40,000 for FY 25-26 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Deschutes County Justice Reinvestment Victim Services Grant	\$44,084.67 for the 23-25 biennium	Recruit, Train, and Support CASA Volunteers





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

<b>Council on Aging 2024-25 Award</b>	\$42,500 (3.7% project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$50,000

*"Following a complex foot surgery in May, inpatient rehabilitation, and caregiving for a month at home, I spent the last month at home alone as I gradually have regained independence. I was unable to drive or grocery shop wearing a large orthopedic boot. Going from wheelchair to walker and now to using a cane, preparing meals was also not possible. I requested Meals on Wheels meal deliveries. This has been a tremendous help, a very positive experience." – Sharon, Meals on Wheels client, 2024*

**Community Need** Nearly 24% of the Central Oregon population is over the age of 60, with approximately 20% of this aging population at or below the poverty level. Our Meals on Wheels program is critical to meeting the nutritional needs of older adults in Deschutes County. Providing proper nutrition to those struggling with age and disabilities decreases falls and hospital visits, and increases stay in their homes. Our Nutrition programs in Deschutes County for the *first 6 months of the fiscal year* have served 1,543 individuals (60+ seniors); and our goal was 1,200 for the year.

**Impact of Current Investment:** 25,000 volunteer hours for delivery of 120,000 Meals on Wheels and congregate dining meals for 1,200 unduplicated individuals.

In the period of July 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025, COA coordinated 18,135 volunteer hours. From July 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, COA served 70,165 meals and 1,543 Individuals.

**Request for Funding** We respectfully request \$50,000 for FY2025-26 to help cover volunteer expenses and meet our food provision for Meals on Wheels and Congregate Dining. This will help us avoid large-scale waitlists and caps on new seniors joining our programs in the face of inflationary food costs and cuts in federal assistance (SNAP). Since finishing and reopening our Central District Senior Services Hub, we have expanded our offerings to three days a week of community dining, with better meal variety.

Older Americans Act funding is not in the current Continuing Resolution and likely not in the new upcoming Congressional budget. We must secure the resources that your investment provides to continue to feed hot, nutritious meals. The Deschutes County Service Partner Agreements are critical to leveraging other non-governmental funding sources to meet the increasing costs of food, fuel and wages in Deschutes County.



## 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

YES

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Health Equity/Emergency Mini Grant	\$24,944	Supplies, surge staffing, and operational costs of remaining open and/or opening during non-regular days or hours (e.g. weekends), depending upon emergency climate/weather needs for the community's seniors.



## CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH Homeless Outreach Coordinator

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$30,000 (15% of project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$30,000

Cole, a Vietnam Veteran, has been living homeless in an RV in Deschutes County for many years. During COVO's camp outreach contact was made; he was connected to Deschutes County's Veteran Peer specialist and COVO's SSVF program for Veterans, who connected him with HUD-VASH and is helping with his housing search. Brady, an Army veteran, was discovered living homeless in an RV just north of Bend during a camp outreach run. He had recently come here from out of state. He was referred to COVO's SSVF team, enrolled in SSVF, and is on his way to being housed.

**Community Need** In 2024 COVO served a total Outreach Program client count of 1,256 with 7,250 contacts - 3,680 in our Outreach Center and 3,570 in homeless camp outreach efforts. This was a 4.5 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 78,840 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 HLC 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 services to women Veterans.

**Impact of Current Investment** Provide .6 FTE (of 1.0 FTE) Outreach Coordinator position. In the period of July 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, COVO:

- Made 1,865 contacts with homeless/low-income people at the Outreach Center;
- Contacted 2,055 people in camps;
- Contacted 137 individuals in less accessible areas of Deschutes County;
- Coordinated 943 volunteer hours; and
- Removed 57,420 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, Stabilization Center, Mosaic Medical Mobile Clinic, 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

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. The \$2,000 grant was spent by December 2024.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, 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

**2024-25 Award** \$17,500 (37% project funding)  
**Amount Requested 2025-26** \$17,500

“Our family has just gone through a financial hardship recently. My advocate has been so amazing and helpful. I was uncomfortable asking for help, and she made me feel very comfortable and unapologetic.” - Local FAN parent

### Community Need

FAN has been working with Central Oregon families for over 32 years. In this time, we have served more than 191,000 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.

The 2024 Oregon Financial Wellness Scorecard reports that more than one in three Central Oregonians allocate over 30% of their income towards rent or mortgage, qualifying them as rent-burdened. And one in six children face food insecurity (2025 State of Oregon’s Children). FAN tackles these barriers by listening to families without judgement and building relationships with children and families as they provide services to ensure children are able to attend school each day.

**Impact of Current Investment** - Grant supports .40 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, 2024, to January 15, 2025, FAN **connected 330 individuals to basic-need resources** at Elton Gregory Middle School.
- During the fall client survey, **100% of families reported that FAN improved their situation, and 88% reported that FAN helped their student attend/stay in school**

### Request for Funding

FAN is committed to ensuring that children and family members facing poverty-related barriers have access to basic-need resources so kids can thrive in school and life. Deschutes County funding helps us accomplish this goal. Through a dedicated FAN advocate, a child or parent is connected to essential resources such as food, shelter, heating, and more. Advocates are placed directly in the schools to ensure families can connect with a friendly and knowledgeable person in a convenient space. Advocates serve as a one-stop connection to crucial resources, working closely with community partners. We are only able to accomplish this work with the strength of more than 100 local partners, allowing our FAN advocates to swiftly and efficiently help families navigate the local social service system without shame or judgment.



**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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Discretionary grant	1,000	Sponsorship for April 2025 FANraiser luncheon



## KIDS CENTER Child Abuse Medical Evaluation Project

**2024-25 Award** \$30,000 (6% of project funding)  
**Amount Requested 2025-26** \$30,000

“The need for the child abuse medical and forensic evaluations that KIDS Center provides continues to grow at a significant pace. In 2024, KIDS Center provided these services to 489 children, a 4% increase over 2023. This continues the trend we’ve experienced over the past few years, with the number of children served annually increasing 12% since 2019. Deschutes County’s continued population growth combined with the life stressors experienced by many families continue to result in increased demand for these essential services. The support KIDS Center receives from Deschutes County plays a crucial role in enabling us to meet this demand and provide the necessary medical and forensic evaluations for children, families and the many community partners in the public sector who rely on our specialized services. Thank you for your ongoing, vital support.” – *Gil Levy, Executive Director*

**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 steadily.

- In 2024, KIDS Center provided child abuse evaluation services for 489 children, a record number for any calendar year since our inception. Of those, 336 were from Deschutes County.
- In addition, our medical examiners conducted comprehensive case reviews for 102 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 0.18 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, 2024, to January 15, 2025, Kids Center Examiners:

- Performed medical assessments/physical exams for 149 children;
- Provided consultations on 12 hotline calls; and
- Performed 66 case reviews for children originally seen in medical settings.

**Request for Funding:** Medical examinations are a crucial part of every child abuse evaluation provided by KIDS Center. Our medical examiners have specialized training to determine whether injuries or conditions may have been caused by abuse. They document their findings in evaluation reports and, if necessary, provide testimony in court as part of criminal proceedings. Additionally, our medical examiners play a key role in reassuring children about their health and their ability to recover from traumatic experiences, helping them take the first steps in their healing journey.



## 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Deschutes County Sheriff's Office	\$40,000.00	Support for child abuse evaluations.
Deschutes County JRI Funds	\$13,658.14	Intake and access to child evaluation services.





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

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$20,000 (3% project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$20,000

"The shelter gave me a safe place to stay when I had nowhere else to go. They helped me find a job, get back into school, and believe in myself again." *LOFT client*

"Every young person who walks through our doors has potential, and our shelter gives them the stability and support they need to see it in themselves. Seeing them find hope, gain confidence, and take steps toward a brighter future is why we do this work." *LOFT Case Manager*

**Community Need** JBJYS’s goal is to provide shelter services to the most vulnerable youth, while reducing risk and working to end chronic homelessness. The need for youth shelter continues to increase, despite efforts. To address this need, JBJYS opened a third shelter in 2024, increasing capacity by 42% (total 37 beds). Homeless youth services are largely funded by federal and state grants. Two of JBJYS’s largest shelters (The LOFT & Grandma’s House) have grants ending in 2025. Future federal funding is uncertain at this time. Deschutes County funding is especially important this year, as the total number of unhoused in Central Oregon has increased by 64% since 2021 (Point in Time Count data: 1,098 – 2021; 1,799 – 2024). Almost 20% of those affected are youth under the age of 24. The following are data for children and youth (under 25):

- The total homeless under the age of 24 in Central Oregon in 2024 was 328, an increase of 24%. Since 2021 (265 - 2021; 328 – 2024).
- Approximately 50% of youth under the age of 25 are living unaccompanied (156).
- Central Oregon continues to be identified as one of the nation’s CoCs with the highest percentage of unaccompanied, homeless youth who are living unsheltered (80%).

Service totals for 2024 include:

- Shelter: 10,937 nights of shelter were provided to 168 youth (all shelter programs) – a 63% increase in the number of bed nights over 2023. Bed capacity increased by 42%.
- Street Outreach (basic needs): 208 youth (1,427 duplicated contacts); 1,441 hours
- 101 human trafficking victims (sex & labor) identified and served - most homeless youth

**Impact of Current Investment** Provide support for .40 (of 6.5 FTE) to support The LOFT, shelter for youth, crisis intervention, and family mediation services across all Deschutes County locations.

From July 1, 2024, through January 15, 2025:

- **67** unduplicated youth received services;
- **41** youth accessed emergency shelter; and
- **28** youth have transitioned with **86% of transitions marked as successful.**

**Request for Funding** In 2025-2026, funding will provide a .30 FTE Case Manager. This position provides essential case management services for youth seeking shelter at The LOFT. Funding this year is especially critical for sustaining 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025? No

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>



## LATINO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Healthy Families & Family Empowerment Programs

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$35,000 (4.5% project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-2026</b>	\$45,000

*"A friend told me about LCA. Their team helped me obtain OHP for my children and me. They are also supporting me with immigration services to address my asylum case. Additionally, they have guided me in obtaining an ITIN and preparing the tax process to fulfill my family tax responsibilities." -Carmen*

**Community Need:** The Latine population in Deschutes County makes up 9.3%, and LCA is the only organization in Central Oregon focused on supporting this community, both established and recent. Our offices in Redmond and Bend serve more than 76% of our total clients across the region. LCA provides vital assistance with: **a) access to healthcare** through OHP enrollment and guidance, **b) obtaining ITIN and tax filing services**, **c) community workshops and referrals** to essential services such as housing, business startup, immigration rights, and access to food, and **d) citizenship classes and tutoring** to help clients prepare for exams and strengthen their family and socio-emotional stability.

### 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, 2024, through January 15, 2025:

- 293 clients were assisted with OHP/SHIBA health insurance enrollment and health system navigation;
- 2,701 clients received information and/or referrals to achieve service goals;
- 8 community resource workshops were held; and
- 18 clients received citizenship assistance/tutoring.

### Request for Funding

We are requesting \$45,000 to assist more than 3,000 Latine individuals who need support to integrate and contribute to the prosperity of Deschutes County. The increase in funding from 2024-2025 is due to the expectation that, given the adverse migration context, more clients will seek to expand their access to services that they may have previously considered non-urgent, such as OHP enrollment, ITIN numbers, tax filing, and even citizenship classes, in order to ensure their legal stay in the country.

We want individuals to improve their quality of life and the future of their children, to receive vital quality services that are culturally appropriate and relevant to their needs. From LCA, we join the efforts of Deschutes County to ensure the health and socio-economic well-being of all its residents, within a framework of inclusion, resilience, and 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Yes

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
DCHS & LCA Healthy Families Contract	\$7,000	Support for partnership between DCHS and LCA's Healthy Families program to provide connection, communication, and outreach and education with the Latinx community



## MOUNTAINSTAR FAMILY RELIEF NURSERY Therapeutic Early Childhood Classroom and Outreach Projects

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$21,600 (2% of project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$21,600 (2% of project funding)

*My family has benefited from MountainStar's program for 7 years, with three young daughters. As new parents, we lacked a support system, and MountainStar was the first place I felt safe leaving my children. They provided essential supplies and resources, therapeutic classrooms, and emotional support – all in a nonjudgemental way. The staff's empathy and encouragement have boosted my confidence as a parent, helping our family achieve our goals. As our youngest child graduates from the program, we are feeling bittersweet. I will never forget where we started and the growth we have made because MountainStar was with us every step of the way. – Redmond program parent*

### Community Need

Deschutes County Data:

- There has been a dramatic increase in the number of children in DHS/Child Welfare.
- In 2023, there were 375 founded cases of abuse. There were 13.1 (per 1,000) children who were victims of abuse and neglect compared to 11.1 (per 1,000) in 2020. Statewide, 36.5% of child abuse and neglect victims were ages 5 and under (*Oregon DHS 2023 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.
- 93% of our client families live in poverty and 100% meet the OR state definition of at-risk.

**Impact of Current Investment** Grant supports 8.3% (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, 2024, to January 15, 2025:

64 children were enrolled across Deschutes County;

81% of children met or exceeded expectations for social-emotional development; and

783 hours of therapeutic classroom service hours were provided.

### Request for Funding

Funding will support 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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

Yes.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Discretionary Grants Program	\$500.00	Program supplies for Bend and Redmond centers



## SAVING GRACE

### Mary's Place Supervised Visitation & Safe Exchange Center

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$30,000 (5% project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$40,000 (5% project funding)

"Using Mary's Place has significantly increased my feelings of safety and that of my children."  
"I will be forever thankful for Mary's Place providing a safe stress-free environment for my daughter and I to do exchanges." "I'm so glad this resource exists and wish it could be expanded." "I wish every city/county had a Mary's Place for safe exchanges. Thank you."  
Mary's Place clients.

#### Community Need:

In calendar year 2024:

- Saving Grace, the sole domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault agency serving Deschutes County served 933 survivors with 14,529 services including safety planning, emergency shelter and legal advocacy and responded to 2,355 helpline calls.
- Deschutes County law enforcement conducted 226 high-lethality (LAP) screens at the scene of DV calls and determined 169 victims were at high risk of being killed.
- 504 restraining orders and 304 stalking orders were filed in Deschutes County Circuit Court. The majority of families using MP are referred by the court in connection with restraining orders and high-risk custody cases.

**Impact of Current Investment** July 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025: Provided .33 FTE of 1 FTE to supervise 6 FTE staff who provide supervised visits, safe exchanges, case management and advocacy services for families that have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or child sexual abuse. In this time period, Mary's Place:

- Facilitated and supervised 927 visits and exchanges;
- Served 57 new and continuing families (unduplicated)
- Reports 96% 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 Deschutes County citizens. Mary's Place fills a vital role in public safety by protecting adult victims and children from experiencing further violence and trauma during parenting time.

- These funds are going to provide .49 FTE of 1 FTE to supervise 5.8 FTE staff who provide supervised visits, safe exchanges, case management and advocacy services
- Saving Grace is facing a 10% increase in medical/dental benefit costs in FY 2025-26.
- Some of Saving Grace's funds that have supported program staff are ending, and we are still actively working on finding replacement.
- Due to high demand via court referrals to Mary's Place and limits of staffing and the facility, MP consistently maintains an average waitlist of 12-15 families.



**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, 2024, through June 30, 2025?

YES

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive / applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>
Deschutes Co Document Number # 2024-519, OJD Mediation/ Conciliation Distribution	\$94,366	Mary's Place Supervised Visits & Exchanges
VAWA-C-2023-DeschutesCo.DAVAP-00015 Nonprofit Subaward	\$11,198	Sexual Assault Response Team best practice assessment and sexual assault case review work
Deschutes Co Subgrant Document No 2022-314, ended 09/30/2024	\$43,407	Lethality Assessment/Law Enforcement Liaison Personnel
Deschutes Co Services Contract No 2024-151 – Justice Reinvestment	\$63,677.85	Mary's Place Supervised Visits & Exchanges





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

<b>2024-25 Award</b>	\$12,000.00 (5% project funding)
<b>Amount Requested 2025-26</b>	\$15,000.00 (2% of project funding)

*“My husband died last year, and I lost his pension, and my bills are going up. I try to get to the Center lunch but most days I can’t make it because of my arthritis. Getting Meals on Wheels gives me good food and the lady that delivers it makes my day! I wish I had more money to donate to the Senior Center for all of the good work they do for me and other old people.”  
From an 82-year old lady.*

**Community Need** The greater Redmond area (Redmond, Alfalfa, Eagle Crest, Crooked River Ranch, Terrebonne, and parts of Powell Butte) is growing at an unprecedented rate. By December 2025, 35% of the population will be 50 and older. We project that we will serve 45,500 meals by June 30, 2026.

Our “Meal Services Program (MSP)” includes Meals on Wheels delivered to living sites and a daily meal served at the Senior Center, which has a rich history of serving older adults in our area. Since 2023, participation in the MSP has doubled. Given the more robust level of activities and events held at the Center and the growing population, we expect continued participation growth.

We face critical issues: increased demand for MSP, escalating food costs, the need for more MSP volunteers, and increased federal compliance documentation, which placed the demand for more staff time and expertise. Fundraising efforts, including donations, grants, and in-kind support, are more critical as food and labor costs increase.

Our 2025-26 focus is:

1. *Increasing Number of Meals Served* – With our commercial kitchen renovation completed, we will expand the number of meals served and our volunteer base.
2. *Supporting Increasing Food Costs* –Our board/staff are accelerating securing public and private funds through grants, fundraising events, and donations.

**Impact of Current Investment** Service Partner funds contribute 6% of the program’s food and supplies costs. In the period of July 1, 2024, through January 15, 2025:

- 12,852 were delivered via Meals on Wheels, and
- 4,202 meals were provided in congregate dining

### Request for Funding

We respectfully request a \$15,000 grant to purchase food for our “Meals on Wheels” Program. By June 30, 2026, we plan to serve 45,500 meals to older adults, representing 30% of Redmond’s population. Our dedicated team of volunteers, staff, and board of directors is committed to meeting our seniors' nutrition and socialization needs. Your funding is instrumental in addressing rising food costs and growing the senior population.



**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, 2024, through June 30, 2025? No.

If yes, please list all Deschutes County grants received (or scheduled to receive/applied for) from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, below:

<b>Contract Agreements:</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Intended Use of Funds</b>



**UPPER DESCHUTES**  
WATERSHED COUNCIL

March 11, 2025

RE: Request to Deschutes County Commissioners for Service Partner Grant Funding for Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for FY26

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 28<sup>th</sup> year in 2025 after being formed in partnership with Deschutes County back in 1997. I look forward to sharing my annual presentation with you later in 2025. During this current fiscal year, the UDWC is receiving \$20,000 as part of Deschutes County's Service Partner Grant Program. This annual funding is an extremely important component that supports our 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 work in FY24 was \$2.2M with 41% coming as federal funding, 13% as state funding, and 44% being non-governmental grants or donations. In FY25, our proposed budget was \$1.5M, where we are again bringing federal, state and private dollars to Deschutes County through our work.

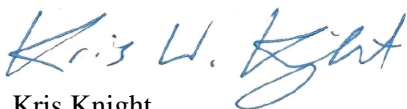
Funds from Deschutes County supports our staffing and operational costs, allowing UDWC to complete restoration projects, monitor the health of our streams and rivers, and to accomplish valuable education programs for K-12 students and community members about the importance of our rivers and streams.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

- UDWC in FY25 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. UDWC has raised ~\$400,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and federal funding through Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete the engineering design which will be completed in 2025 and 2026. A story about this project can be found here: [https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/bend/funding-secure-for-mirror-pond-dam-fish-passage-design-phase/article\\_e49bacda-d9eb-11ef-b36d-bfba78b65816.html](https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/bend/funding-secure-for-mirror-pond-dam-fish-passage-design-phase/article_e49bacda-d9eb-11ef-b36d-bfba78b65816.html)
- UDWC led an effort at Creekside Park in Sisters to dedicate a memorial for Andrew Dutterer, a colleague from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that was killed in car accident. The memorial includes interpretive signs that tell the story about the history of restoring Whychus Creek over the past two decades. A story about the memorial project can be found here: <https://www.nuggetnews.com/story/2024/07/24/news/andrew-dutterer-memorial-dedicated/36708.html>
- UDWC continued tree thinning efforts around the Sisters area in FY25 to reduce risk of wildfire around the Sisters area on private lands, and hauled away those cut trees for Whychus Creek restoration work.

- UDWC launched a project in partnership with Gilchrist Forest Products just outside of Deschutes County, in Klamath County, to assess fish passage opportunities at the Gilchrist Mill Pond Dam on the Little Deschutes River. A fish ladder that was installed in the 1980s has worn out and is no longer functioning. UDWC received grant funding from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to assess different options for restoring the ability for fish to pass the dam, which is currently underway.
- 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 launching a new “One Water” program with the City of Bend that involves educating 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2025, 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 continued our partnership with Central Oregon Community College’s Continuing Education Program offering adult watershed education sessions and watershed tours. In FY25 are putting on two five-part classes about both the Metolius watershed and the Upper Deschutes watershed along with tours of each watershed. Approximately 100 attendees will attend these courses to learn about their “home waters”.
- UDWC also again put on the annual Deschutes River Clean-up held on July 27, 2024: [https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/annual-deschutes-river-cleanup-to-tug-up-trash-this-weekend/article\\_36f9ff72-492d-11ef-8dec-274ad98c1586.html](https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/annual-deschutes-river-cleanup-to-tug-up-trash-this-weekend/article_36f9ff72-492d-11ef-8dec-274ad98c1586.html) . In an attempt to avoid wildfire smoke later in the summer, UDWC will move up the annual clean-up in 2025 which will be held June 28, 2025.
- You can view our annual report for 2024 at the following link: <https://www.upperdeschuteswatershedcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/UDWC-Annual-Report-2024-Compressed-2.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, and even more so in a time when there is uncertainty regarding federal funding. We respectfully request continued support by funding a \$20,000 Service Partner Grant to Upper Deschutes Watershed Council for FY26.

Sincerely,



Kris Knight  
Executive Director  
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council



**FIREWISE USA<sup>®</sup>**  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

**Request for \$50,000 in Video Lottery funds for fuel reduction grants**

**Program:**

The County's 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 out 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.

**Funding:**

In the Fall of 2024, there were a total of 20 applicants for fuel reduction grants, of which 41 were awarded. Total amounts awarded ranged from \$1,000-\$5,000. The total "ask" from all the applicants was \$250,020, 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 lottery funds to acquire other agreements like the BLM Community Fire Assistance Agreement and the Buttes 2 Basin Joint Chiefs Agreement. We are hopeful that the BOCC will continue to support this effort.

Thank you for being an advocate for this valuable funding.

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

## Esteemed Deschutes County Board of Commissioners,

As the Regional Executive Director at United Way of Central Oregon (UWCO), I want to first thank you for the ongoing partnership between Deschutes County and UWCO. The video lottery revenue allocation you entrust to UWCO plays a critical role in supporting emergency food, shelter, and clothing service delivery in our County.

This letter is to request video lottery funding from Deschutes County for United Way's Emergency Food & Shelter Grants (EFSG). I am respectfully advocating for UWCO to receive a larger allocation from the Deschutes County video lottery revenue than usual. This is because the usual federal FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP) funding that the Deschutes County video lottery funds have historically allowed us to leverage is on hold pending review.

Video lottery funds allow UWCO to provide emergency food, shelter, and clothing to our neighbors in Deschutes County. **These emergency services are essential to workforce stabilization and therefore to economic development.** For this reason, UWCO is requesting \$160,000 from the County this year.

UWCO's Emergency Food and Shelter Grants (EFSG) 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 employs a vetted, rigorous, needs-based process utilizing a Local Board made up of local experts to review proposals from local agencies that provide emergency food, shelter, and clothing to our workforce, ensuring 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 community's most vulnerable, retaining only a 2% administrative fee. **The community members who access these emergency services are the essential workers we encounter every day: people who are working hard, sometimes more than one job, but still unable to make ends meet—for themselves or for their children.**

UWCO is also the trusted agency leading the deployment of resources that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) 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 EFSP as we do for allocating state video lottery revenue in Deschutes County, and have a longstanding, vetted, reputable process for reviewing proposals and deploying these resources.

On January 27, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum to federal agencies requiring a temporary pause on all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by recent Executive Orders (EOs).

Although OMB rescinded the memo, EFSP has not been allowed to release payments to local service providers. The program is being reviewed within FEMA to ensure it complies with the EOs and the DHS guidance and payments are on hold until approval has been received from FEMA. There is no information on that timeline.

This action has prompted us to increase our request to Deschutes County to make up for the loss of FEMA funds. Historically, with the exception of last year, we received approximately \$80,000 from FEMA's ESFP and \$80,000 from Deschutes County video lottery revenue. County funds allowed us to fund agencies that delivered essential services but might not be good candidates for the federal funding due to stringent reporting requirements.

**With \$160,000 in funding from the County, UWCO will be able to continue to award the same amount of funding to agencies throughout Deschutes County as we have been doing year-over-year.** Additional support from the County will allow us to ensure adequate funding to agencies serving those most in need, using a trusted vetting process with a *very* low administrative fee.

Historically, UWCO has run the two grantmaking processes concurrently, using the same Board of local experts. However, this year, we waited until the last minute to see if the federal funds for EFSP Phase 42 would become available, which was originally anticipated earlier in 2025. Now that we are confident that the federal funds will not be available before the end of June 2025, we are decoupling the two award processes for the first time in our history and will be running the Deschutes County video lottery fund Emergency Food & Shelter Grants (EFSG) process independent of the federal process.

The reason we are asking for \$160,000 is to ensure that the same amount of funding is available next year to nonprofits delivering critical emergency food and shelter services to help ensure community needs are being met. This year's video lottery funding allocation process will ensure that UWCO **does not** fund the same programs that are directly funded by the County. By maintaining these complementary funding streams, Deschutes County ensures a holistic approach to community support—addressing both immediate needs and long-term stability.

**These funds are feeding people, keeping them in their homes, and protecting our most vulnerable.** For the 2024 grant cycle, as in years past, funds were deployed to bolster the provision of emergency food (served meals, home delivered meals, and food purchases), shelter (mass and other shelter, and rent and mortgage assistance), supplies and equipment (diapers, feminine hygiene products, PPE, cleaning supplies, and small equipment), utilities (gas, electric, water, sewer, heating oil, firewood, coal, and propane), and clothing for our low-income neighbors, including children, veterans, homeless, and food insecure neighbors.

**The use of video lottery funds for the EFSG process is efficient, providing a lower-overhead option to provide**

**these services, and unduplicated, having virtually no overlap with "Service Partner" agencies.** Additionally, in recognition of the Board of County Commissioners' interest in funding fuels reduction, there is room to discuss expanding UWCO's EFSG process to include other areas, such as disaster mitigation and recovery, including wildfire.

UWCO's request for an increase in funding is due to the extenuating circumstances now facing institutions and nonprofits nationwide—which are beyond our control. 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 that protect our County's most vulnerable citizens and help ensure that Deschutes County has a stable, fed, sheltered, clothed, and protected workforce and community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana". The script is cursive and fluid.

Diana Fischetti

Regional Executive Director at United Way of Central Oregon