



AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council's Oregon Rehousing Initiative grant

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

1. Move approval of to apply for and accept, if awarded, a Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council's Oregon Rehousing Initiative grant
2. Move to extend a limited duration FTE Behavioral Health Specialist II through June 30, 2027, upon condition of this grant being awarded

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Oregon Rehousing Initiative (ORI) is a statewide program launched in response to Oregon's homelessness crisis and housing instability. Established under executive Orders 23-02 and 24-02, ORI is designed to rapidly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide supportive services that help them maintain stable housing. The regional allocation of ORI funding is being managed by Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC). Funding is available to support direct rehousing services, supportive services, unit access strategies, data collection and reporting, and administrative costs.

People living on the streets and in encampments report having higher rates of substance use disorder and mental illness. Street outreach allows us to serve some of our community's most vulnerable residents beyond the walls of the clinic. Deploying outreach specialists to build relationships with individuals who cannot or will not access in-clinic services is essential to maintaining stability and connection. This model centers on meeting clients where they are psychically, emotionally, and mentally. Bringing services directly to them is the first step in establishing and sustaining a therapeutic relationship. Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) team provides direct street outreach and mobile treatment services to encampments and congregate sites throughout Deschutes County, with the goal of stabilizing and supporting individuals in accessing their connection to permanent housing and treatment services treatment

DCHS seeks approval from the Board of County Commissioners to apply for \$113,316 and, if awarded, accept the funding and extend a limited duration FTE Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS) II position on the HOST Team. The BHS II position is currently funded through a grant that is expiring on December 31, 2026. If awarded, this grant opportunity

would allow us to avoid HOST program reductions by funding the position, as well as some psychiatry time, for the period January 1, 2027, through June 30, 2027. Funding would be used as follows:

- \$79,075 to extend the duration of the BHS II through June 30, 2027
- \$23,940 for psychiatry time
- \$10,301 (10%) for indirect costs

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$113,316 revenue in FY 2027, if awarded.

ATTENDANCE:

Kara Cronin, Behavioral Health Program Manager