



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** December 3, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Application for a Continuum of Care (CoC) grant from the Homeless Leadership Coalition

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move to authorize Health Services to apply for a Continuum of Care grant from the Homeless Leadership Coalition.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is at an all-time high. People living on the streets and in encampments have high rates of substance use disorder and mental illness. According to a [nationwide study](#), 75% of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report a substance use disorder and 78% report a mental health condition. The study found that substance use disorder contributed to the loss of housing for 50% of the unsheltered population, and mental health conditions contributed to loss of housing for 51% of the population.

**Funding Opportunity**

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding for homeless programs through a Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process. The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The goals and objectives of the funding are:

- Ending the crisis of homelessness
- Prioritizing treatment and recovery
- Advancing public safety
- Promoting self-sufficiency

Organizations which receive this grant are instructed to prioritize projects which offer the treatment and services people need to recover and regain self-sufficiency. These include on-site behavioral health treatment, robust wraparound supportive services, and participation requirements.

The Central Oregon Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC) is Central Oregon's designated CoC organization. In partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), HLC is applying for the HUD's 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Grant and is requesting project applications.

**HOST Project**

Deschutes County's Homeless Outreach Services Team (HOST) provides street outreach and mobile treatment services to encampments and congregate sites throughout Deschutes County with the goal of stabilizing and supporting individuals in accessing permanent housing and treatment services. A critical component of the outreach model of care delivery is "meeting the client" where they are physically, emotionally, and mentally. An outreach approach to care is predicated on the foundational idea that bringing services directly to the client is the first step in developing and maintaining a therapeutic relationship.

The HOST Team is currently funded, in part, through a grant that is expiring December 31, 2026. Deschutes County Health Services is requesting approval to apply for \$250,000 to continue our HOST program at its current service level. If awarded, funding will support a current Behavioral Health Specialist II position for 12 months through December 31, 2027. Additionally, funding will support some psychiatry time, client stabilization work, and 15% for indirect costs. A 25% match is required. No additional County General Funds will be requested.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

\$250,000 revenue for the period January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Kara Cronin, BH Program Manager