



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: May 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Community Capacity Building Grant

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval to apply for a Community Capacity Building grant.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The federal government has established a standard set of rules which every state must follow in operating their Medicaid programs. States, however, can ask the Federal Government for permission to change or waive some aspects of their Medicaid rules, outlined in Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration gives states flexibility to design and improve programs and to show how new policy approaches, such as eligibility expansion, service expansion or using innovative service delivery systems can improve care increase efficiency and reduce cost.

Oregon's first OHP 1115 waiver established Oregon Health Plan (OHP) in 1994. Since then, the OHP 1115 Medicaid Demonstration has given many opportunities to expand and improve health care throughout Oregon. Oregon's current OPH 1115 waiver, which runs from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2027, gives Oregon authorization to design and implement a Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) initiative within the state's Medicaid program. The initiative advances Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) goal of eliminating health inequities by 2030, by exploring different ways to affect health outcomes for communities and groups that have been disproportionately affected by health inequities in our state.

As part of OHA's HSRN Initiative, the state has been authorized to spend up to \$119 million for infrastructure funding, or what the state is calling 'Community Capacity Building Funding'. This funding supports investments necessary to create robust, equitable networks of HRSN providers across the state, and build the necessary capabilities and capacity of community partners. Coordinated Care Organizations, PacificSource Community Solutions for the Central Oregon Region, will administer Community Capacity Building Funding.

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) is requesting approval to apply for Community

Capacity Building Funding in the amount of \$950,000. Grant funding can be used for technology, development of business or operational practices, workforce development, outreach, education, and stakeholder convening. With funding from this grant DCHS will have the opportunity to build infrastructure to screen, collect, and analyze data to understand our communities' HRSN needs, and establish formal pathways to refer individuals and families to Community Based Organizations to meet those needs. Infrastructure added with grant funds may also provide the opportunity to bill Medicaid for activities and services associated with addressing health related needs of enrolled DCHS clients. The term of the grant is September 1, 2024, through February 28, 2026.

If approved, DCHS intends to use the funding as follows:

- \$546,464 to support personnel for 18-months as follows:
 - Clinical Information System Administrator, 1.0 existing, full-time equivalent (FTE). Duties will include standing up the systems/platforms, mapping process and workflows, implementing and stabilizing systems and processes, and training existing staff to carry out the work.
 - Public Health Educator I, existing limited duration and funded by this grant .5 FTE in fiscal year (FY) 2025 for 3 months, and 1.0 FTE in FY 26. Duties include screening, referring, and educating clients, and providing community outreach and engagement to utilize existing access points in our community.
 - Existing personnel will be used to support the project work, and may include Administrative Assistant, analysts, supervisors, and managers. Time dedicated to the project will range from .05 FTE to .50 FTE.
- \$98,857 for contracted services to perform project management.
- \$56,020 for temporary help to address additional Health Information Technology Team workload associated with completing technical work of the project.
- \$86,836 to purchase seventy Tablets/Touch Screen Devices to administer screenings to individuals to identify needs.
- \$15,910 for a tablet data plan for twenty tablets.
- \$22,000 to make improvements to our Employee Health Record system to streamline the work and better coordinate with outside organizations.
- \$123,913 to cover indirect expenses.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$950,000 revenue for the period September 1, 2024, through February 28, 2026.

ATTENDANCE:

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director
Nicole Lunetta, Supervisor, Health Services