



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Application for a COHC grant to purchase a mobile outreach van

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of staff's request to apply for a COHC grant in the amount of \$80,000 to purchase and retrofit a mobile outreach van.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Central Oregon Health Council's (COHC) Community Advisory Council (CAC) is accepting applications for grants to improve community health and wellbeing and reduce health disparities. These Community Health Project grants will range from \$5,000 to \$80,000. Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) is requesting approval to apply for \$80,000 to purchase a mobile outreach van.

The population of Deschutes County has grown significantly over the past ten years. With that growth and the accompanying rise in the cost of living, more people live outside of the Bend and Redmond areas. Additionally, DCHS's services are often out of reach for rural populations, non-English speaking populations, individuals with a variety of immigration statuses and individuals who have barriers to seeking care (such as finances, transportation, childcare difficulties, concerns around BMI, substance abuse disorders, fear of clinics, etc). Additionally, the ability to offer services in remote setting has been constrained by the lack of safe, confidential spaces to meet with clientele.

Deschutes County Health Services's WIC (Women, Infant, Children) Program long ago identified outreach clinics as a necessity to reach the WIC eligible target population. DCHS WIC has partnered with Grandma's House of Central Oregon shelter, Mountain Star Relief Nursery, and low income apartment complexes in our service area to provide WIC services outside of our three brick and mortar locations. Through partnership with these agencies, we have learned the value improved access has had for WIC participants.

DCHS proposes implementing a new public health mobile clinic service (“PH on the MOVE”) to support our vulnerable populations. Obtaining a mobile outreach van will enable the DCHS to provide many public health programs at partner sites that do not have adequate or appropriate space to host. We will be able to reach people where they are, increasing uptake of services, improving health outcomes and quality of life. Some of the services we anticipate providing include:

- Clinical services including most contraceptives, STI screenings & treatments, some well visits and basic health screenings such as blood pressure, blood sugar and limited immunizations.
- PCC (Perinatal Care Coordinators) could conduct full appointments with pregnant individuals. The PCC team will enroll clients in OHP, make OB appointments, set up rides to appointments, and make referrals to dental and other services such as maternal mental health.
- WIC could conduct appointments including weights, heights, and hemoglobin checks on adults, children, and infants. WIC could also provide nutrition assessments and education, breastfeeding education and support, and administrative support.
- Vaccines. We will focus on the HPV vaccine for cancer prevention, Tdap especially for those seeking pregnancy or with new babies, and Hepatitis A/B vaccines for high-risk individuals.

BUDGET IMPACTS: \$80,000 revenue if awarded.

ATTENDANCE:

Anne Kilty, Manager Clinical Services

Christine Pagano, HS Supervisor

Cheryl Smallman, HS Business Officer