



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval to accept an Oregon Health Authority Health-Related Social Needs Housing grant

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of Chair signature of Document Number 2025-016 accepting a grant from the Oregon Health Authority to deliver Health-Related Social Needs Housing support services.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) seeks approval to accept a \$350,000 grant from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to deliver Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Housing supports and Home and Community-Based Services under the State's 1915(i) program for eligible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. The term of the funding is through December 31, 2026.

HSRN Housing Benefit Program

Authorized under Oregon's 1115 Medicaid Demonstration waiver, the HRSN Housing benefit helps OHP members maintain stable housing. This program provides various supports, including:

- Rental assistance or temporary housing (e.g., rental payments, deposits, utility assistance) for up to six months.
- Home modifications (e.g., ramps, handrails, environmental remediation).
- Pre-tenancy and tenancy support services (e.g., housing application, moving support, eviction prevention).
- Housing-focused navigation and case management services.

1915(i) Home and Community Based Services

Oregon's 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services allows Oregon to use matching federal Medicaid funding for Home-Based Habilitation, Behavioral Habilitation, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation services. These services are available to Medicaid recipients aged 21 or older who have been diagnosed with a chronic mental illness.

Under Oregon's expanded 1915(i) program, qualifying OHP members can access additional services including:

- Home-delivered meals
- Housing support services
- Transition services
- Pest eradication services
- In-home personal care
- Community transportation

Purpose of the Agreement

This agreement enables Deschutes County Health Services to:

- Develop internal staffing, expertise, workflows, and resources necessary to deliver:
 - HRSN Housing supports, including rental assistance payments, to eligible members enrolled in OHP Open Card
 - 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services to eligible OHP members
- Participate in the network of providers offering:
 - HRSN Housing supports to eligible OHP Open Card members
 - Core services under the 1915(i) program, including eligibility verification, diagnostic, and Person-Centered Care Plan Development services

The proposed community-based and in-home supports aim to help participants secure, maintain, and retain stable housing by providing behavioral health treatment and rental assistance payments. Participants will be identified by our Homeless Outreach Services Team as individuals experiencing houselessness and living with a serious and persistent mental illness.

Funding would be used as follows:

- \$241,624 will fund a new, limited duration 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Behavioral Health Specialist II (BHS II) for the period April 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026. The BHS II will provide assessment, treatment planning and community-based treatment to houseless individuals.
- \$62,724 will be used to cover psychiatry provider time used for outreach care to unsheltered houseless population (approximately 284 hours at \$221/hour).
- \$45,652 (15%) will be allocated for indirect costs.

If approved by the Board, a budget adjustment and FTE resolution will be forthcoming.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$350,000 revenue for the period through December 31, 2026.

ATTENDANCE:

Kara Cronin, Behavioral Health Program Manager