



Memorandum

Date: November 16, 2021
To: Nick Lelack, County Administrator and Greg Munn, Chief Financial Officer
From: Dr. George A. Conway, Health Services Director
Subject: Request for Homeless Outreach Countywide Services through American Rescue Plan Act Funding

This memo is to inform County Administration of a time sensitive American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding request for Homeless Outreach countywide services.

Issue: Although funding is earmarked for capital purchases and development to support homeless initiatives, there are currently no funds earmarked for project support services. This is time sensitive as the winter season is approaching, making it imperative to act now in order to connect vulnerable unhoused to potentially life-saving housing and services.

Request: Health Services requests \$1,065,000 to hire staff that will help to address increased need for homeless outreach and services in the community, including providing support to the Navigation Center, Project Turnkey and the Structured Camps being acquired/developed by the City of Bend. In addition, these services will support increased need in Sisters, La Pine and Redmond with the intention to provide support to Oasis Village upon its completion. A critical part of the success of all of these projects is having consistent and reliable services responding on site regularly. Due to current hiring challenges and the approaching winter season, recruitment and training staff should begin now to support these needs.

Funds will support three full-time employees: two Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS) I Case Managers and one Peer Support Specialist through December 31, 2024. This will add capacity to the existing team, which currently has only one BHS I Case Manager, and make it possible to assign one case manager each to cover Bend and Redmond and one to cover Sisters and La Pine. The Peer will serve all four communities, as needed. In addition, \$50,000 will be used to purchase supplies, and \$60,000 will be used to purchase a designated outreach truck. The outreach truck will provide vital, on-street access to those hardest to reach in the community and will be utilized as a mobile resource hub for those unable to safely leave their location or belongings in order to access services. DCHS will offset some costs of these added services with Medicaid revenue where appropriate and will seek grant funds to support these services long-term.

Without funding, Health Services will be unable to offer logistical or programmatic support in our community and unable to meet the increasing need for services and connection to services in this population. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to further discussing the requests with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. George A. Conway
Health Services, Director