



CITY OF SISTERS

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EST. 1946

October 20th, 2021

Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners
PO Box 6005
Bend, OR 97708-6005

Re: Sisters ARPA Request

Dear County Commissioners,

As discussed at the joint meeting between the Sisters City Council and Deschutes County Board of Commissioner on Wednesday, October 13th, there is a need in Sisters Country to further support those suffering from houselessness and struggling to find affordable, workforce housing. After consulting with many parties and discussion, the City is requesting three investments in Sisters from your ARPA funds.

The City's overarching request is continued partnership working together – including with the state and federal governments – to support those wanting resources and permanent housing in Sisters Country. Specifically, a series of investments to move towards and track that goal over the next three years:

- New position in the Deschutes County Health Services Department dedicated to rural houseless outreach and case management. This role will be critical coordinating existing resources, collecting and communicating data, and evaluating needs while informing future decision-making. Sisters requests .5 FTE be allocated to Sisters Country. The anticipated total compensation for this position is \$300,000 over three years.
- Support for existing Sisters Cold Weather Shelter (SCWS) operations. The SCWS has leveraged volunteers and philanthropy to offer shelter space during winter at local churches. Largely due to COVID-19, some of the church spaces are not available. An allocation of \$50,000 over three years will assist in securing space to lease and operations during the harshest weather.
- Contribution for land acquisition and/or construction to expand affordable and workforce housing supply in Sisters. There is a severe lack of a units available and the City is working diligently through many avenues. An allocation of \$500,000 – combined with the City's limited housing funds – could be instrumental in spurring the next critical project in Sisters.

Overall, these requests totaling \$700,000 to support Sisters Country with ARPA funds is an investment in our health and safety, local economy, and community livability. This is an essential time to make these investments for both our present and future. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael Preedin