



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 8, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of Document No. 2024-006 accepting a 2023 Shared Savings Investment Grant from the Central Oregon Health Council, and approval of Board Order No. 2025-001 designating signing authority to Jessica Jacks

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

1. Move approval of Document No. 2025-006, a Central Oregon Health Council Behavioral Health 2023 Shared Savings Investment Grant.
2. Move approval of Board Order No. 2025-001 designating signing authority to Jessica Jacks.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

On August 21, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners authorized Deschutes County Health Services to apply for a Central Oregon Health Council (COHC) Behavioral Health 2023 Shared Savings Investment grant for the Healthy Schools program. DCHS has been awarded \$391,287 and is seeking approval to accept this funding.

The Healthy Schools program embeds Deschutes County Public Health staff into public schools as dedicated on-site Public Health Specialists (PHS). Public schools are one of the best settings to reach school-age youth and families with prevention, health promotion, and health care services. The Public Health Specialists help schools to respond effectively to the high levels of critical adolescent and community health issues.

Healthy Schools is already seeing positive program outcomes. For example, the percent of middle and high school students feeling depressed, stressed, or anxious decreased from 52 percent to 47 percent from 2022 to 2024. The Healthy Schools program has also increased the proportion of behavioral health care referrals which result in appointments from 52% to 60%. Furthermore, from 2021 to June 2024, the proportion of Deschutes County suicide-related Emergency Department visits for ages 11-17 significantly decreased for zip codes with Healthy Schools (from 69% to 58%). Healthy Schools notably improved prevention education with 100% of teachers now using effective, skills-based mental health promotion and suicide prevention curriculum (up from 6%), reaching 5,154 students last year alone.

Healthy Schools expenses are covered through a cost share between DCHS and Bend-La Pine Schools (BLS). The COHC grant award will reflect this partnership with \$195,635 going directly to BLS. DCHS intends to use the remaining \$195,652 to support staff expenses. Currently, the DCHS contribution to the Healthy Schools program is sourced from a combination of County General Funds and state grants. This funding will help offset increases to the County General Fund contribution in calendar year 2026. COHC does not fund indirect costs, so these would be covered by existing Healthy School resources.

The total award of \$391,287 will fund 2.0 FTE in Healthy Schools. In addition, \$28,700 will support 0.15 FTE Public Health Epidemiologist to assist with data tracking and evaluation for the Healthy Schools program.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$195,652 revenue

ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Jacks, Public Health Program Manager