



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: COHC Engaging Communities and Schools in Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Grant Application

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval to apply for the COHC Engaging Communities and Schools in Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Grant.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) seeks approval to apply for a \$125,000 Central Oregon Health Council (COHC) Engaging Communities and Schools in Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention Grant. This grant opportunity would support initiatives that engage students, communities, and various stakeholders in effective substance misuse prevention efforts. The goal is to create a multi-faceted approach that goes beyond traditional harm reduction strategies, focusing on preventative messaging, community dialogue, and reducing the stigma surrounding substance use disorders (SUD) and naloxone use. Awards can range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and funding can be spent over multiple years.

DCHS's Prevention and Health Promotion (PHP) Program proposes to use any grant funds awarded to continue operations of the UpShift program. UpShift was designed by PHP to improve the ways schools approach students who are using substances by ensuring appropriate prevention and intervention strategies. UpShift is designed to actively engage with students who are using substances to help them adopt healthy behaviors and stay in school. The program also serves to increase student and guardian knowledge of substance use risks and to enhance supportive networks within the school community.

The UpShift program is offered to all students who engage in substance use and aims to help them identify the root cause(s) of their behavior. Students in the program are evaluated to determine their level of risk and then referred for appropriate intervention.

If awarded, DCHS intends to use all funding to help sustain the existing regular, 1.0 FTE Community Health Specialist II (CHSII). The CHSII position oversees UpShift implementation in all three school districts in Deschutes County. The position is currently funded by OHA

Program Element (PE) 36, Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Education Program (ADPEP). OHA, PE 36 funding allocations have not increased for several years and are not sufficient to maintain the 1.0 FTE. The Department seeks to use funding from this grant to support the position through FY27.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

If awarded, \$125,000 revenue for the term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

Because this COHC grant opportunity does not allow for indirect costs, DCHS will consider options to address the shortfall created in FY26 and 27 budgets—this may include reprioritization of current resources or reduction of FTE.

ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Jacks, Manager, Public Health Program

Heather Tang, Substance Misuse Prevention Strategist