



Where Life is Sweet

Mayor and Members of the City Council
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of November 14, 2022

Title/Subject

Discussion and possible support of the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) homelessness funding recommendations.

Summary and Background

The OMA formed a task force, consisting of 25 mayors from across the state, in May of 2022 to develop a response to homelessness that would help all communities statewide, regardless of size or location, to address the issue. The task force was diverse in size and location around the state.

Over the summer and early fall, the task force met regularly to develop its homelessness plan, which was finalized and approved October 14. The plan was subsequently emailed to all 90 members of the Oregon Legislature and the three candidates for governor.

The task force's recommendations involve a partnership between the state of Oregon and its 241 cities. This partnership will allow for the establishment and expansion of local, community-based responses that provide immediate shelter, needed services, and secure safety for unhoused Oregonians.

Tie-In to Council Goals

11. Determine City role as it relates to homelessness

Fiscal Information

The proposed partnership requires the enactment of two separate, yet parallel, state budget proposals during the 2023 Legislative Session:

1. A budget package which provides direct allocation to cities for homelessness response and prevention services; and
2. An allocation that provides capital improvement funding for cities.

The first prong of this partnership is a direct allocation of funding from the state to each incorporated city in Oregon for cities to use in their homelessness response and prevention services as needed. It is recommended for the direct allocation to be as follows:

- Each city will be allocated funds in an amount equal to \$40 per resident, in accordance with the latest official population estimates from Portland State University (PSU) with a minimum for each city of \$50,000.
- Cities may elect to use the funds for their own homelessness response and prevention services, or may redirect their funds to community partners who are required to use the funds for homelessness response and prevention services.
 - Funds must be used for homelessness response and prevention services, which may include:
 - Abatement/clean-up
 - Environmental mitigation
 - Affordable housing
 - Capital construction or improvement costs related to homelessness or affordable housing measures
 - Community resource officers
 - Education and outreach
 - Food bank assistance
 - Shelter and/or transitional housing
 - Hygiene stations
 - Operation costs
 - Outreach workers
 - Prevention

With a \$50,000 guarantee for all cities, and a \$40.00 per resident multiplier in place, based on the April 19, 2022, PSU population estimates, the total amount would equal \$123,575,800.

The second prong of this effort requires a meaningful allocation from the state for coordinated capital construction investments for specific shelter and transitional housing projects, statewide. It is expected that final dollar amount for needed capital construction investments will equal between \$125 to \$175 million.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

1. Support the OMA proposal for homelessness funding.
2. Not support the OMA proposal for homelessness funding.

Recommended Action/Motion

Support the OMA proposal for homelessness funding.

Submitted By: Byron D. Smith