



City of Sweet Home
3225 Main Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386
541-367-5128
Fax 541-367-1215
www.sweethomeor.gov

Finance Department

MEMORANDUM

To: Sweet Home City Council

From: Brandon Neish, Finance Director

RE: Rural Development Initiatives Youth Leadership Development

The Rural Development Initiatives Program (RDI) has been delivering leadership development programs since 2003 and many of Sweet Home's community have been participants. Last year, RDI began a program, in collaboration with the City, for youth using the same program format. 13 Sweet Home students gained valuable skills and are currently involved in leadership opportunities in schools, churches and around the community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RDI was unable to fully complete its leadership program as it had hoped and would like to finish what was started in 2020. Heidi Khokhar, the program's Executive Director said, "the ultimate purpose of this unique program is to help cultivate vital rural communities. We believe that rural leaders gives a community local experts to define and achieve their own vision of vitality." In Sweet Home, the Youth Advisory Council actively recruits from this program as well as encourages others to participate. The new program would begin in November 2021 (contingent on funding) with an ultimate goal of training 25 youth leaders between the ages of 12 and 15.

RDI estimates funding necessary to complete this program to be \$27,500. RDI plans to raise \$7,500 for the program and is requesting that the City contribute \$20,000. Currently, there is not budgeted expenditure for this line in the City's adopted 2022 budget. The plan currently is to place the \$20k in the Executive department's budget in the Internal Service Fund. The Executive department budget contains funding for the City Manager's Office (personnel and materials), Information Technology (IT) and the City Council. The budget will be watched throughout the fiscal year to determine if the existing expenditure authorization can handle the RDI expense or if a transfer of appropriations will be necessary to ensure compliance with Oregon Local Budget Law. It is possible that staff will need to return to the Council in the future with a request for a transfer so long as the Council supports this program moving forward (consensus needed).