



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Request for Council Action – Approving Resolution No. 35 for 2023 in Support of Establishing a Continuum of Care

Preferred Agenda: December 12, 2023

Submitted By: Kelcey Young, City Manager

Reviewed By: Kelcey Young, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: Comprehensive Plan

Towards Council Goal: Effective and efficient government, viable and sustainable essential services

Attachments: Resolution No. 35

Purpose of this RCA:

Requesting approval of a resolution in support of establishing a continuum of care for the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties region and registering with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 2024 to better support Sweet Home’s houseless population.

Background/Context:

In 1994, HUD established the Continuum of Care (CoC) program as a means for communities across the nation to "engage in multi-year strategic planning for homeless programs and services that are well integrated with planning for mainstream services," with mainstream services denoting public housing, Section 8 housing choice vouchers, and services for runaway and homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, veterans, seniors, and people experiencing addictions and/or mental illness. The Community Services Consortium (CSC) is proposing the establishment of a new CoC focused on Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties.

The Challenge/Problem:

Currently, Sweet Home is covered by the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC), which covers 29 rural counties in Oregon. Other smaller CoCs in Oregon have been more successful in securing funding to address homelessness. Establishing a narrower CoC between Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties will allow for more targeted planning, coordination, management, data analysis, and securing of funding.

A resolution from participating communities is required as part of the notification process of forming a new CoC. The prospective CoC is also required to identify a Collaborative Applicant, who will be responsible for submitting the CoC’s registration and Consolidated Application, as well as applying for planning funds. It is suggested that CSC serve as the Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the new CoC until it is more firmly established.

Stakeholders:

- City of Sweet Home Citizens – Citizens of Sweet Home include many members of the homeless population and additional, coordinated resources will benefit them.
- City of Sweet Home Staff – Staff will be better able to target funding opportunities through the new CoC.
- City of Sweet Home City Council – The City Council wants to improve homelessness response and quality of life in Sweet Home.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The new CoC will hopefully allow the tri-county group to pursue additional funding to address homelessness and provide better collaborative opportunities specific to the region.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

The City of Sweet Home must seek options to address homelessness in collaboration with relevant local and regional partners.

Options:

1. Do Nothing – Do not authorize the resolution.
2. Adopt Resolution No. 35 for 2023 as currently proposed – Adoption of the resolution formalizes the City's commitment to forming a tri-county Continuum of Care.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 35 for 2023 with amendments – City Council could propose changes to the resolution prior to adoption.

Recommendation:

Option 2 is the recommended option: Motion to pass the Resolution as presented.