



January 31, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Clackamas County Health, Housing & Human Services
Attn: Adam Brown, Vahid Brown
2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City, OR 97045
ABrown@clackamas.us
VBrown@clackamas.us

Re: Proposal for City-Led Homelessness Initiatives

Dear Adam and Vahid:

The City of Wilsonville (“Wilsonville”) is grateful to Clackamas County for the opportunity to collaborate on homelessness initiatives to address the particular needs of Wilsonville’s unhoused community members. In 2023, Wilsonville engaged in extensive public outreach, including targeted outreach to community members experiencing homelessness, to understand the needs, challenges, and opportunities that exist to address the homeless crisis in a meaningful way in Wilsonville. This proposal seeks \$365,300 of funds for several initiatives, which are discussed in the attached chart and ranked by priority. These initiatives are directly related to: (1) input received from local service providers who, if funds are awarded, will administer most of the initiatives; and (2) input received from Wilsonville community members experiencing homelessness. If any funds are awarded, the City intends to serve as the recipient of the funds and enter into an intergovernmental agreement (“IGA”) with Clackamas County, and local service providers will operate as sub-recipients of the funds provided in the IGA.

1. Wilsonville Community Sharing and Heart of the City

Wilsonville has two primary service providers that offer a variety of services to persons experiencing homelessness – Wilsonville Community Sharing and Heart of the City. Each of their current operations and services provided are described below.

Wilsonville Community Sharing (“WCS”) is an Oregon non-profit corporation that is currently located in Wilsonville’s Art Tech building across from Wilsonville City Hall. WCS offers, among other services, rental assistance, utility assistance, and operates the local food bank. As with Heart of the City, WCS does so much to help our community with limited resources. In 2023, WCS assisted 85 families with their PGE electric bills, totaling over \$16,511 and

averaging \$194.25 per family assisted. WCS also helped keep people in their homes, providing over \$9,600 in rental assistance in 2023. One of the services WCS is most known for is its food pantry that is open once a week on Tuesdays to individuals and families. In 2023, WCS served 5,136 individuals and families, almost double the people WCS assisted in 2021 (2,676 individuals and families).

Similar to WCS, Heart of the City (“HoC”) does a remarkable job spreading its limited resources to help so many in the Wilsonville community. HoC is financially supported through donations and by Grace Chapel. In 2023, HoC assisted 530 people. HoC coordinates with WCS so as to not duplicate efforts and to ensure that each organization’s funds are used to their maximum potential. Thus, in addition to offering some of the same services as WCS, HoC also offers counseling and financial advisory services, clothing, sleeping materials, and other necessities for people experiencing homelessness or who are vulnerable to becoming unhoused.

2. Wilsonville 2023 Project and Outreach Efforts

In response to HB 3115 (2021) and 3124 (2021), Wilsonville undertook a project to examine and amend its prohibition against camping on public property. From the beginning, however, the Wilsonville City Council engaged in a larger conversation about the needs of the community and, in particular, community members experiencing homelessness. The project included an outreach plan that sought to engage several of Wilsonville’s advisory boards and committees; local service providers like WCS and HoC; businesses; religious organizations; other government entities and services such as Clackamas County, the West Linn-Wilsonville School District, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, and the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office; and Wilsonville community members, including unhoused residents. Wilsonville partnered with WCS to administer an anonymous survey to people who utilize its food pantry so Wilsonville could learn about their needs, challenges, and opportunities. This survey identified a particular need for places to charge electronic devices, such as cell phones, to stay connected to family, work, and resources.

As part of the project, the Wilsonville City Council adopted nine (9) value statements concerning the homelessness crisis. These value statements reflect the City Council’s commitment to collaborating with partners, like Clackamas County, WCS, and HoC, to address homelessness with the “goal that all unhoused people be afforded options for safer, stable housing.”

3. Identified Gaps in the Wilsonville Community

WCS and HoC assisted Wilsonville in identifying gaps in services currently available to Wilsonville’s unhoused community members, and Wilsonville also relied on its prior outreach from its 2023 project. The following areas are identified gaps in services that are generally indicated in the funding opportunities in Clackamas County’s call for proposals:

- Lack of overnight housing in emergencies. In 2023, Wilsonville funded the city’s first mental health specialist, Brenda Evans, who works through the Wilsonville Police Department (contracted with Clackamas County Behavioral Health Department). Brenda provides invaluable support to the community to assist when a person is experiencing a mental health crisis, and she has access to resources through the County when a mental

health crisis arises. However, a gap exists when an individual is unhoused and has an emergent circumstance that is unrelated to a mental health issue.

- Employment accessibility issues. WCS, HoC, and Wilsonville identified issues regarding employment, particularly when a person's vehicle breaks down or a person does not have funds to pay for gas and then is unable to work. This is an issue that is often a precursor to a person experiencing homelessness. HoC also provides some financial literacy to people it serves to help better utilize their limited resources to avoid homelessness, but more support is needed.
- Mental health services. For individuals who are experiencing mental health issues but are not in a crisis, they often do not have resources to receive mental health care. Working through issues and connecting individuals to resources before they are in a state of crisis could help them continue to support themselves and reduce the risk of homelessness.
- Basic survival services. The critical item identified during Wilsonville's 2023 project was the need for charging stations for individuals experiencing homelessness to charge devices such as cell phones. Currently, some community members illegally tap into Wilsonville power outlets in Wilsonville parks to charge their devices. These devices are needed for community members to stay connected to family, work, resources, and friends.

4. Proposed Investments

The attached chart provides the proposals generated by Wilsonville in collaboration of WCS and HoC. They are ranked in priority in the event that Clackamas County is unable to fund all requests. Again, Wilsonville, Wilsonville Community Sharing, and Heart of the City thank Clackamas County for the opportunity to propose investments to aid Wilsonville's community members experiencing homelessness.

Respectfully,



Amanda Guile-Hinman
City Attorney

encl: Attachment of Proposed Projects

cc (w/encl.): Leigh Crosby, Wilsonville Community Sharing
Lyn Welchel, Heart of the City
Wilsonville City Council
Bryan Cosgrove, City Manager

Initiative Category	Identified Gap	Description	Population Served	Connection to Recovery-Oriented Needs	One-Time or Limited-Term	Budget	Community Engagement
Housing Services: Housing Placement	Lack of Overnight Housing in Emergencies	Motel vouchers for individuals willing/seeking to enter into shelters or addiction programs with transportation to the shelters/programs	Specific needs- families with children in the school district, local houseless individuals/families/recently evicted	Start of the homeless to home process meeting the gaps of lack of services or loss of services due to homelessness/losing home. Rent Well will be the starting process to recover from evictions	Limited term until the next phase of placement is established and continuum of services for community members. Longer term support for employees to administer and to provide vouchers may arise.	\$100,800 - \$100 per night x 7 nights x 3 weeks = up to \$2,100 per family, max cost, possibly up to 4 families a month (based on number of intakes in the past month of families indicating they are either homeless or possible eviction).	HoC and WCS. There may be other organizations or the school district that would want to possible be a participating partner for this program/positions.
Employment & Benefits Support: Employment/Retention Services	Employment Accessibility Issues	Funding for auto-repair services to help individuals maintain employment	Individuals are unable to get a job or maintain employment due to transportation. Need to show they work outside of the public transportation system, or their job requires use of personal vehicles	This program will help with the accessibility to gain and maintain employment. By providing support for transportation barriers, both with auto repair or gas cards to ensure employment. Limited income causes gaps in income to be able to cover large costs related to auto repairs or gas	Limited term to determine if they established a continuum of services for community members. Needs to be set up for a 1-2 year program to determine effectiveness and need in community, use of evaluation can determine continued need after that time.	\$72,000 for one year - \$1500 per vehicle, work with local auto repair shops to fix the vehicle. The requests are possibly 2-4 per month, \$6000 a month, for 12 months equals \$72,000 per year.	Both The Heart of the City and Wilsonville Community Sharing have talked about the importance of these services along with city officials. The City has experienced issues with broken-down vehicles where an individual cannot afford the repair to operate the vehicle and get to work.
Employment & Benefits Support: Employment/Retention Services	Employment Accessibility Issues	Gas vouchers/Clothing (Goodwill) vouchers	Gas cards for individuals who cannot make it to work due to insufficient funds for gas. Clothing vouchers to Goodwill will also provide appropriate attire for employment of interviews.	Accessibility to gain and maintain employment. By reducing transportation barriers, both with auto repair or gas cards, gaining and maintaining employment is more likely and reduces risk of homelessness. Limited income causes gaps in income to be able to cover large costs related to auto repairs or gas. Gift cards to Goodwill will help prepare individuals for the workforce with work-appropriate attire.	Same as above	\$12,000 - Gas Cards and Goodwill vouchers, \$25 increments of 20 of each card, a month, each month(25 x 40 x 12 = \$12,000), that are distributed to non profits in the community that are contracted with the city, (documentation and reporting). Long term need for additional personnel for WCS and HoC (\$60,000 for personnel a year) if program is successful.	Same as above

<p>Employment & Benefits Support: Financial Literacy</p>	<p>Lack of Financial Literacy</p>	<p>Financial literacy training/services</p>	<p>Providing financial literacy to increase savings from employment, learning how to maximize income to start saving income, or budgeting within their income limits</p>	<p>The use of evidence based financial education programs can help clients prepare for how to financially handle situations such as unexpected expenses, like auto repair or gas</p>	<p>Same as above</p>	<p>Estimate is \$65,000 for one year: The financial literacy program needs a curriculum and educator to teach the class. The cost for personnel to run this program would be \$65,000. That money could be used to pay for one staff or allow organizations to leverage current personnel, materials, and services local organizations already have.</p>	<p>Same as above</p>
<p>Health & Wellness Supports: Mental Health Services</p>	<p>Lack of Mental Health Services</p>	<p>Scholarship low-cost partnership program, providing financial support for individuals needing mental health counseling but cannot afford it. Partnership would be created with local Mental Health Counselors to develop sliding scale services so clients can afford counseling they need. And allocated funds to help start community based support groups to help with mental health needs. Client needs to provide proof of financial need. Database needs to be created to store this information of clients and counselors</p>	<p>Specific needs- all aged individuals and families in the Wilsonville city limits with limited income, or proof of ability to pay for full cost of counseling.</p>	<p>A way to address mental health needs of Wilsonville's most vulnerable population. By providing access to mental health, community members struggling can address correlations to poor mental health such as: employment loss, poverty, and poor physical health. Mental health needs being addressed can also have a positive impact on reduction in drug abuse because individuals develop coping skills to replace addictions</p>	<p>Limited-term to gauge success</p>	<p>\$48,000 for services; \$60,000 for personnel: Based on the 51 people needing counseling last year and average of \$157 per session, the amount needed for a client for 6 sessions is \$942. But that number is for a full session. The sliding scale could drop a client's counseling down to as low as \$10-20 per session depending on the counselor, program, and sliding scale the counselor offers. Based on the full cost and 51 people the cost would be \$48,042 a year for individuals to receive 6 sessions. Personnel would be needed to build, monitor and run the program, \$60,000/yr for employment, possibly for 2 positions with the organizations in the community</p>	<p>Both HoC and WCS have shared the importance of these services. Other organizations or the school district may want to partner in this program/position. There would need to be engagement with local Mental Health Specialist/Counselors that provide therapy in the area to determine if they would like to be a part of this program. This program could also be utilized with local universities that have both social work/psychology programs with student interning to be counselors, this could help boost mental health programs in the region and increase mental health services in the area.</p>

<p>Outreach & Engagement Supports: Basic Survival Supports</p>	<p>Inability to Charge Devices</p>	<p>Pilot program to provide two benches (one in each of Wilsonville's high-use park areas by community members experiencing homelessness - Town Center Park and Murase Plaza) with solar-powered chargers that are timed to provide the ability to charge during open park hours</p>	<p>Specific needs- local houseless individuals/families and individuals in the community that need an ability to charge their devices.</p>	<p>This will allow a gap of houseless individuals needing access to their electronic devices to have accessibility to their community and resources.</p>	<p>One-time cost</p>	<p>\$7,500: Estimated costs for two benches/charging stations is \$7,500. City staff would install to minimize installation costs. Example of</p>	<p>This need was identified as a high-priority need in the 2023 anonymous survey of individuals experiencing homelessness in Wilsonville.</p>
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Total Request for All Proposals: \$365,300