

Assuring Healthy, Affordable Housing in Benton County

Mid-point Update to the 10 Year Plan to Address Homelessness Proposal

Benton County Health Services, June 2017

Background

Approximately 35 percent of homeowners and 62 percent of renters spent more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs in Benton County (2008-2011) (US HUD definition of housing cost burden), making it one of the least affordable places in Oregon to live. In 2014-15, the county experienced an increase in the number of homeless children, families and single adults, mirroring trends in areas in Oregon and nationally.

The Housing Opportunities Action Council (HOAC) recently completed an organizational assessment and realignment process resulting in a new Governance Structure, and three targeted subcommittees (Governance, Funding and Resources, and SMART Goals). These were informed by a November 2016 Homelessness Summit that included broad stakeholder representation. Leveraging new in-kind, volunteer and other new resources will be critical to support this new infrastructure and advance collaborative planning efforts to address homelessness and housing affordability in communities throughout Benton County.

Planning Approach

In partnership with the HOAC and key planning partners, Benton County Health Services (BCHS) proposes the following activities to update the 10 Year Plan to Address Homelessness:

- Complete a targeted, time limited strategic planning and community engagement process to inform a midpoint update of Benton County's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and align with the 2013-18 Benton County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Access to safe and affordable housing is one of Benton County's top three CHIP priority areas.
- BCHS's Healthy Communities team will staff the planning process, providing a short term infusion of strategic planning, facilitation, and community engagement activities. Key planning activities will include epidemiologic data review and synthesis, review of best practices and emerging models, SWOT implementation and analysis, priority setting, partner mapping, identifying outcomes and metrics, and developing an evaluation plan. BCHS will also facilitate targeted engagement of low income, minority, rural, English language learners, and homeless residents to promote access and input into the planning process among these populations.
- The Healthy Communities team will build on current efforts to date, including active involvement in the HOAC's subcommittees, particularly SMART Goals and Funding, to ensure alignment across the Benton County CHIP and HOAC's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- To staff this effort, the Healthy Communities team will re-assign a portion of FTE of current staff, given their expertise in community engagement, planning, public policy, data collection and evaluation, strong positive working relationships with partners, and knowledge of community needs and assets.
- This will require additional funding to backfill these positions during the project period (see estimated staffing plan and budget below). .10 FTE of the Public Health Epidemiologist will be provided in-kind to assist with data analysis and evaluation activities.

- BCHS will execute three contracts with Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services, Community Services Consortium, and First Christian Church, through a Mental Health Prevention and Promotion (MHPP) grant which has identified housing as a key priority. These partners have homeless/housing systems and planning alignment requirements as part of their organizational missions and can advise project staff in developing the planning process, timeline, communication plan, agendas, documentation, and evaluation activities.
- Along with representation from the HOAC, BCHS will invite staff from Corvallis and Benton County Planner and Community Development to support this small planning team, to ensure alignment with policy recommendations identified through the City’s Housing Development Task Force and ensure communication and coordination across efforts.
- Finally, these efforts will also be cross-walked with the City of Corvallis’ Imagine Corvallis 2014 vision and action plan process and Benton County’s 2016-17 2040 strategic planning process whenever possible, as well as aligned with other housing related planning occurring in Benton County and the region.

Proposed Timeline

The anticipated timeline for the planning process is July 1 through December 31, 2016. BCHS will continue to provide capacity building and technical assistance to the HOAC to advance these activities after the end of this project phase as part of the Benton County’s ongoing commitment to these efforts.

Proposed Budget (6 month)

BCHS is requesting a total of \$60,387 in new funding to support the project. BHCS is providing an additional \$25,078 in match and in-kind funding through current public health allocations.

Expense Category	Description	Match and In-kind Funding	Funding Requested
Personnel	Benton County Healthy Communities Policy and Planning Specialists (1.0 FTE – Backfill) Rocio Munoz, BS - .25FTE Sara Hartstein, MPH - .25 FTE Kelly Locey, MPH - .25 FTE Tatiana Dierwechter, MSW - .25 FTE \$27 per hour x 1,040 hours = \$28,080 \$28,080 x .87% fringe = \$24,430		\$52,510
	Public Health Epidemiologist Peter Barnsworth, MS - .10 FTE \$35 per hour x 104 hours = \$3,640 \$3,640 x .87% fringe = \$3,167	\$6,807	
Contract Services	Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services	\$5,000	
	Community Services Consortium	\$5,000	
	First Christian Church	\$5,000	
Indirect @ 15%		\$3,271	\$7,877
Total Funding		\$25,078	\$60,387