



February 7, 2022

House Bill 4123, as proposed, provides funding for joint city/county work to address “rapid increases in housing instability and homelessness in Oregon” and to help support coordinated leadership on “policy and services to end homelessness.”

In Corvallis and Benton County, we have already started this work. Through the efforts of our joint City of Corvallis and Benton County Home, Opportunity, Planning, and Equity (HOPE) Board, we have developed recommendations (Attachment A) that will guide our jurisdictions as we address the joint homelessness and affordable housing crises.

Implementation of the recommendations requires resources outside what either the City of Corvallis or Benton County have available. The funding proposed in HB 4123 would support Corvallis and Benton County moving forward on many of the recommendations and could directly address our needs.

The Benton County Board of Commissioners and the Corvallis City Council thank you for the consideration of this bill and urge you to pass it.

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Hyatt Lytle, Acting Mayor
City of Corvallis

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Nancy Wyse, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

Attachment A: HOPE Recommendations

1. Facilitate and coordinate data improvement efforts with community partners.
2. Work with providers to create metrics to measure program success.
3. Adopt the Hub Model of care coordination as a framework for doing business that coordinates existing partners to provide the best possible service to individuals.
4. Full-time paid case managers are needed to support people transitioning out of homelessness. More case managers are needed who have commensurate experience and background that reflects the people they are serving from a cultural perspective and based on lived-experience.
5. Pursue the feasibility and implementation of a crisis response team.
6. Benton County needs a 24/7/365 Emergency Sheltering System for all populations with onsite resources at any shelter location to transition people out of homelessness.
7. Facilitate and support the creation of a Resource Center.
8. Establish referral pathways to transitional and permanent housing resources for serious criminal offenders (sex offenders, felony convictions, etc.).
9. Routine communication, notice, and community involvement need to happen on the topic of homelessness services.
10. Increase development or acquisition of affordable housing units for permanent supportive housing (PSH) by 20 new units per year for the next eight years to add at a minimum 160 new units of PSH in Benton County. “New” can be new construction or conversion of existing units to PSH units.
11. Increase available rental/income assistance options.
12. Increase supportive services and stable funding streams to provide services to residents at more affordable housing locations.