

CHAPTER 70**AN ACT**

HB 4123

Relating to coordinated homeless response systems; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas the lack of available housing, high rents and high home prices are driving rapid increases in housing instability and homelessness in Oregon; and

Whereas Oregon has experienced a significant increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness and unsheltered homelessness; and

Whereas funding, resources and services to address homelessness in Oregon are not scaled to meet this need; and

Whereas the lack of housing affordability and availability in Oregon cannot be addressed without cross-jurisdictional collaboration; and

Whereas communities require coordinated leadership and governance to identify local needs and centralize communication, policy and services to end homelessness; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall provide grants to local governments and nonprofit corporations that agree to, within 90 days of receipt of grant funding, enter into an agreement among the member governments and nonprofit corporations, if any, to create a coordinated homeless response system that consists of, at a minimum:

(a) The establishment of a coordinated homeless response office;

(b) An advisory board with representation from the governing body of each member government;

(c) Specific roles of each member to support the advisory board and office;

(d) Plans for coordination with any local continuum of care receiving funding under 24 C.F.R. part 578; and

(e) The establishment of a centralized point of contact for the office.

(2) Grants provided under this section shall be used by the coordinated homeless response system to:

(a) Hire necessary staff for the office;

(b) Support coordinated communications and public engagement;

(c) Support community outreach and policy development, including stipends for people with current or recent lived experience of homelessness;

(d) Acquire technical assistance and capacity building, including contracting with consultants; and

(e) Pay for other expenses reasonably necessary to meet the requirements under this section.

(3) Within one year of receiving a grant under this section, a coordinated homeless response system, through the advisory board or each member government to the agreement, shall adopt a five-year strategic plan that will identify and set goals for addressing:

(a) Funding to support the ongoing operations of the coordinated homeless response system;

(b) Increasing or streamlining resources and services to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness within the participating cities and counties;

(c) Incorporating national best practices for ending homelessness;

(d) Eliminating racial disparities within homeless services within the service area; and

(e) Creating pathways to permanent and supportive housing that is affordable to local populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

(4) No later than November 15, 2023, and September 15, 2024, each coordinated homeless response system shall provide a report to the Housing and Community Services Department, Oregon Housing Stability Council and one or more appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 on:

(a) The goals adopted in the five-year strategic plan and the progress made in implementing the plan;

(b) Other changes in homelessness services, ordinances of member governments relating to homelessness and partnerships or programs established that are specifically related to member government actions arising out of the agreement; and

(c) Identified challenges and opportunities relating to:

(A) Regional coordination of homelessness services and planning;

(B) Needs for technical assistance regarding program development or other programs from the Housing and Community Services Department; and

(C) Addressing racial disparities through partnerships with culturally specific and responsive organizations serving populations overrepresented in experiencing homelessness, including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, federally recognized tribes and tribal members and outreach and engagement with these populations.

(5) In performing tasks under this section, a coordinated homeless response system shall coordinate with and develop partnerships with local and regional stakeholders, including, but not limited to:

(a) Advocates for people experiencing homelessness and for people with lived experience of homelessness;

(b) Community action agencies;

- (c) Housing authorities;
- (d) Affordable housing providers;
- (e) Behavioral health providers;
- (f) Law enforcement;
- (g) Educational agency liaisons for homeless children as described in 42 U.S.C. 11432;
- (h) Local Department of Human Services offices;
- (i) Courts;
- (j) Legal aid;
- (k) Coordinated care organizations, as described in ORS 414.572;
- (L) Emergency shelter providers;
- (m) Homeless service providers;
- (n) Organizations serving and advocating for veterans, homeless youth, youth exiting the foster care system, individuals exiting the criminal justice system, people with disabilities and aging adults, health care systems, domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ) communities, people experiencing behavioral health and substance use disorders, faith communities and business communities; and
- (o) The Housing and Community Services Department.

(6) In performing its duties under this section, a coordinated homeless response system shall coordinate with law enforcement, service providers and governing bodies to implement safe and humane processes to maintain public and environmental health and safety, balancing important individual and community rights.

(7) A coordinated homeless response system may use grant funds in excess of those funds needed by the system to accomplish the requirements of the system under subsections (1) to (6) of this section to support the delivery of homeless services and shelter consistent with the five-year strategic plan, including through contracts with service providers.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2022 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, out of the General Fund, to provide grants under section 1 of this 2022 Act for a coordinated homeless response system:

(1) \$1,000,000 to Benton County for a response system consisting of Benton County, the

City of Corvallis and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

(2) \$1,000,000 to Coos County for a response system consisting of Coos County, the City of Coos Bay, the City of North Bend and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

(3) \$1,000,000 to Deschutes County for a response system consisting of Deschutes County, the City of Bend, the City of La Pine, the City of Redmond and the City of Sisters.

(4) \$1,000,000 to Lincoln County for a response system consisting of Lincoln County, the City of Lincoln City, the City of Newport, the City of Toledo and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

(5) \$1,000,000 to the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council for a response system consisting of the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Hood River County, Sherman County, Wasco County, the City of The Dalles, the City of Hood River and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

(6) \$1,000,000 to Polk County for a response system consisting of Polk County, the City of Dallas, the City of Falls City, the City of Independence, the City of Monmouth, the City of Willamina, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

(7) \$1,000,000 to Tillamook County for a response system consisting of Tillamook County, the City of Tillamook, Bay City, the City of Garibaldi, the City of Rockaway Beach, the City of Wheeler, the City of Manzanita, Tillamook County Community Action Resources Enterprises, Inc. and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

(8) \$1,000,000 to Umatilla County for a response system consisting of Umatilla County, the City of Umatilla, the City of Stanfield, the City of Echo, the City of Hermiston and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

SECTION 4. This 2022 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2022 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 2022

Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 30, 2022

Effective date March 23, 2022