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FOREST GROVE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

Zoom Video Conferencing

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MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021

ZOOM WEBINAR & IN PERSON IN THE

COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM, 1915 MAIN STREET

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION OPTIONAL: HOMELESSNESS

Public meetings are held in a “hybrid” format allowing the public to attend meetings both virtual and in-person. The public can observe the meetings **LIVE** on **Zoom Webinar** or on television on Tualatin Valley Community Television (TVCTV) Government Access Programming or **LIVE Channel 30** on their website: <http://208.71.205.11/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=15>. Written comments may be submitted by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to: CityCouncilors@forestgrove-or.gov.

PETER B. TRUAX, MAYOR

Malynda H. Wenzl, Council President

Donna Gustafson, Councilor

Kristy L. Kottkey, Councilor

Timothy A. Rippe, Councilor

Elena Uhing, Councilor

Mariana Valenzuela, Councilor

All regular meetings of the City Council are televised live and open to the public and persons are permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by ORS 192. The public may address the Council as follows:

Public Hearings: Hearings are held on each matter required by state law or City policy. Sign in before the meeting on the Public Hearing form posted in the foyer. The presiding officer will review the hearing instructions prior to testimony. The presiding officer will call the individual or group by the name given on the sign-in form. When addressing the Council, please use the witness table (center front of the room), provide your full name and please limit your remarks to three (3) minutes unless the presiding officer grants an extension. Written or oral testimony is heard prior to any Council action. All testimony is electronically recorded. Written testimony may be submitted by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to: CityCouncilors@forestgrove-or.gov.

Public Comment: This is a time provided for anyone wishing to speak to the City Council on an item not on the agenda or on the agenda, and not scheduled for a public hearing. Sign in before the meeting on the form posted in the foyer. The presiding officer will review the instructions prior to public comment. The presiding officer will call the individual or group by the name given on the sign-in form. When addressing the Council, please use the witness table (center front of the room), provide your full name. Please limit your comments to two (2) minutes unless the presiding officer grants an extension. All testimony is electronically recorded. Written comments may be submitted by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to: CityCouncilors@forestgrove-or.gov.

Accommodations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Forest Grove will make reasonable accommodations for participation in the meeting. Request for assistance can be made by contacting City Recorder's Office, aruggles@forestgrove-or.gov, 503-992-3235, at least 48-hours advance notice of the meeting.

FOREST GROVE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
JULY 19, 2021
Page 2 of 2

PowerPoint Presentation
Henry Reimann, Police Chief

5:00

Bryan Pohl, Community
Development Director

Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION OPTIONAL:
HOMELESSNESS**

No public comment will be taken. The Council will take no formal action during the work session.

Panelist include:

- *Shawn Cardwell, Forest Grove Foundation;*
- *Brian Schimmel, Chair of Anti-Poverty Task Force, Forest Grove Foundation, Centro Cultural de Washington County (Centro) Housing Director; and*
- *Juanita Lint, Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce Executive Director*

6:30

ADJOURNMENT:



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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager

MEETING DATE: July 19, 2021

PROJECT TEAM: Paul Downey, Assistant City Manager
Henry Reimann, Chief of Police
Bryan Pohl, Community Development Director

SUBJECT TITLE: Homelessness Work Session (Optional)

PURPOSE OF WORK SESSION:

At the May 24, 2021, City Council meeting, the Council approved holding an “optional work session with the Anti-Poverty Task Force, Chamber Director and Forest Grove Foundation to brainstorm and answer questions pertaining to homeless camping in the City of Forest Grove.” After a Doodle poll of multiple dates, July 19, 5:00-6:30, was selected as the time for the work session. Per the motion, panelists will include Brian Schimmel, Chair of the Anti-Poverty Task Force, Shawn Cardwell, Outreach Coordinator for the Forest Grove Foundation, and Juanita Lint, Executive Director of the Forest Grove/Cornelius Chamber of Commerce.

BACKGROUND:

On February 8, 2021, the Council held an extended work session on homelessness to update current efforts and discuss the City’s role and responsibility in addressing the issue. The work session also provided the background and framework for Council to formulate any goals and objectives as part of the annual goal setting process.

During the meeting, the Council was briefed on Federal, State, Regional, and County programs and funding streams that are presently addressing homelessness. The most current and notable program was Metro’s 2020 homelessness ballot measure that will provide \$50-70 million per year in new resources to Washington County and entitlement communities within Washington County, namely Hillsboro and Beaverton, to provide services to those experiencing homeless.

The Council was also briefed on the County’s social service programs and departments, including mental health, housing, rental assistance, disabled, aging and veterans; women, infant and children; and disease control and prevention. Additionally, the County’s “Road Home” or 10-year Plan to End Homelessness and the Point in Time survey that gauges the number of homeless persons. Lastly, the County’s homelessness efforts are guided by the 17-member Homeless Plan Advisory Committee which includes a representative from each of the following categories: Washington County Commissioner, a mayor or city councilor, philanthropy, business, Housing

Authority of Washington County, a nonprofit housing provider, a nonprofit service provider, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Community Corrections, state or federal entitlement/mainstream resource programs, a representative from the two major hospitals, a representative from the faith community, 3 citizens at-large and a homeless/formerly homeless consumer. Forest Grove City Councilor Elena Uhing serves on this committee.

The work session included a briefing on the City's Impact Grant to the Forest Grove Foundation to provide homelessness services, a city ordinance to exempt non-profits from property tax if they provide affordable housing, a city density bonus to incentivize affordable housing in the community commercial zone, and city utility assistance programs for low-income households.

Lastly, the work session included a briefing on area non-profits that provide a range of services to those experiencing homelessness including the aforementioned Forest Grove Foundation, Community Action, Centro Cultural, Family Promise, and Boys and Girls Aid.

On March 15, officials from Washington County presented to Council on the status of the local implementation plan for homelessness services and advised that a Request for Proposal Qualification (RFPQ) process would soon commence. They also noted the bond measure would bring in between \$50-75 million per year to Washington County.

On March 24, Shawn Cardwell and Brian Schimmel from the Forest Grove Foundation presented to Council on the status of the City's Community Impact Grant for homelessness services.

On May 10, the City Attorney presented to Council on the Martin v. Boise court case and House Bill 3115 and how they relate to the City's existing no camping ordinances in city parks and potential ordinance changes.

Homelessness was also discussed extensively during the goal setting Retreat and work session on February 20 and March 15, culminating in the approval of Objective 2.2 to "partner with other agencies and non-profits to address homelessness needs and access to wraparound services in Forest Grove. Monitor legislation and advocate to meet the needs of homelessness population.

CURRENT UPDATES:

Much has happened since the Council's last work session on homelessness. The Anti-Poverty Task Force continues to meet weekly and includes staff, non-profits, and elected officials from Forest Grove and Cornelius.

In May, Centro Cultural purchased the Forest Grove Inn, comprised of 20 rooms, to be used as a transitional shelter for persons experiencing homeless. The City worked closely with Centro Cultural and the Forest Grove Foundation on due diligence and applicable zoning. Efforts are underway to remodel the building and initiate services.

In May, in an effort to administer monies from the Metro homeless services measure, Washington County commenced an RFPQ process to qualify non-profits that provide homeless services. The Forest Grove Foundation, along with approximately a dozen other non-profits within the County,

were qualified in June for potential funding resulting from the measure. The County has also hired nearly 20 additional employees to help administer homeless related efforts.

In June, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved nearly \$2 million in American Rescue Plan funds for a one-year Homeless Encampment Management Program to improve encampment management coordination amongst jurisdictional boundaries (see attached). The Program aims to address outreach, housing navigation, communication, and sanitary and solid waste removal.

On June 10, the Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) held a Quarterly Town Meeting on homelessness that included Josh Crites, Washington County; Shawn Cardwell, Forest Grove Foundation; and Brian Schimmel, Centro Cultural. Updates and questions centered on the conversion of the Forest Grove Inn to transitional housing, outreach services to area homelessness, and County programs and funding resulting from the supportive housing services bond measure.

In late June, the State Legislature passed three key pieces of legislation regarding persons experiencing homelessness. A very brief summary is offered below and more information can be found at <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov>. Staff continues to review the legislation.

HB 2006: Defines "emergency shelter" and requires local governments to allow siting of qualifying emergency shelters by qualifying entities notwithstanding land use laws and regulations. This bill also expands the description of transitional housing accommodations to include motor-vehicle camping, removes the three-vehicle limit on motor-vehicle camping on religious institution property, and expands motor-vehicle camping that political subdivisions may allow.

HB 3115: Provides that local law regulating sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness. This legislation seeks to codify the *Boise v. Martin* court decision.

HB 3124: Increases the time that written notice must be posted before removal of homeless individuals from an established camping site. Increases categories of persons to whom unclaimed personal property from camping site may be given; requires written notice to state how individuals may claim personal property removed from a camping site, and requires that unclaimed personal property be stored in an orderly fashion. Authorizes donation of unclaimed property to tax exempt charitable corporation.

Most recently, State Representative Susan McLain, in cooperation with Representative Janine Sollman (Hillsboro) and Senator Chuck Riley recently announced the projects that they funded from the American Rescue Plan. The following projects in Forest Grove and Cornelius were funded:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Forest Grove Senior Center Improvements | \$300,000 |
| • Forest Grove Foundation Housing for Homeless Persons | \$680,000 |
| • Bienestar Plaza Los Amigos | \$500,000 |

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Centro Cultural Food Services Building | \$660,000 |
| • Adelante Mujeres Food Security | \$160,000 |

Other projects that were funded included a park in North Plains, electric school buses in Hillsboro, affordable housing for Habitat for Humanity, Asian Pacific American property acquisition, Family Promise of Washington County housing rehabilitation, and bilingual career kits for the Hillsboro Schools Foundation.

DISCUSSION:

Based on Council discussion during the motion, the intent of the work session is to brainstorm ideas and afford an opportunity for in-depth discussion and questions. As a starting point, some topic items could include:

- Council comments - each Councilor offer their vision for addressing homelessness
- Forest Grove Foundation - offer their vision for an essential needs hub
- Partnerships – discuss partnerships with non-profits, City, and County
- Communication – what processes should be in place to assure alignment and communication amongst policy makers and resource providers

ATTACHMENTS:

- Homelessness Staff Memo, February 8, 2021
- OACP News re: Homelessness Legislation
- LOC News re: Affordable Housing Legislation
- Washington County Encampment Program
- Forest Grove Inn News Times Article re: Forest Grove Inn
- American Rescue Plan Act Funding for WashCo.



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CITY RECORDER USE ONLY:

AGENDA ITEM #: _____

MEETING DATE: 02/08/2021

FINAL ACTION: Work Session:

CITY COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: *City Council*

FROM: *Jesse VanderZanden, City Manager
Paul Downey, Administrative Services Director
Bryan Pohl, Community Development Director*

MEETING DATE: *February 8, 2021*

SUBJECT TITLE: *Homelessness Work Session*

ACTION REQUESTED:	☐ Ordinance	☐ Order	☐ Resolution	☐ Motion	☒ X	☐ Informational
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X all that apply

BACKGROUND:

At the January 25 City Council regular meeting, the Council directed staff to hold a work session to update Council on homelessness efforts with the purpose of providing a framework to explore the city's role and responsibility at the work session and/or during the annual retreat.

Homelessness is a complex and multi-faceted issue with many intersecting and sometimes overlapping layers of which entities provide which services. The analysis below is by no means complete or comprehensive but rather is provided as a very broad summary to enable successively informed discussions.

Federal Government

The Federal government addresses homelessness principally through the issuance of grants to qualifying state and local governments and non-profits by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Traditional programs include, but are not limited to, the Continuum of Care grant program, Community Development Block grant program, Emergency Services grant program, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8).

Staff was unable to discern how much federal assistance is traditionally provided; however, recent COVID-related federal assistance for coronavirus outbreaks among individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness in Oregon amounted to approximately \$32 million in April, 2020, of which approximately \$1.9 million was allocated to Washington County; and \$68 million in June, 2020, of which \$2.2 million was allocated to Washington County. This represents new resources in addition to existing resources traditionally provided through the above programs.

State Government

The State administers homeless programs and grants through the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) department. The OHCS makes state and federal grant funds available to community action agencies (CAA's) and other providers throughout the state. Examples of programs and grants include emergency housing assistance, elderly rental assistance, community services block grant, housing stabilization program, and the state homeless assistance program.

The local CAA in Washington County is Community Action, a non-profit that administers utility assistance and housing stability services for qualifying individuals in Washington County. These programs include Community Connect, a coordinated entry system that helps people experiencing homelessness to find possible housing options in Washington County [503-640-3263]. They also include Emergency Rent Assistance for income-eligible Washington County residents who are past due on their rent [503-615-0770]. The city coordinates extensively with Community Action to assure income-eligible residents avail themselves of these programs.

Regional Government (Metro)

In May 2020, voters within Metro approved a measure to collect a 1 percent tax on all taxable income of more than \$125,000 for individuals and \$200,000 for joint filers and a 1 percent tax on profits from businesses with gross receipts of more than \$5 million for supportive housing services for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The tax becomes effective January, 2021, with tax revenues being received in April. Revenue estimates were not available.

Revenues will be distributed proportionate to the tax revenue estimated to be collected from individuals in those counties. Washington County agencies are slated to receive 33.3 percent of the proceeds with funds distributed as rent assistance through qualifying local housing agencies (Washington County, Hillsboro, and Beaverton), and service contracts with local social service and health care providers who serve people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Oversight is provided by a 20-member committee from across the region.

Relatedly, in November, 2018, voters approved a \$652.8 million general obligation bond, funded by property taxes, to create affordable housing for approximately 12,000 people within Metro by buying land and funding construction for new affordable rental and owned homes and buying and renovating market rate housing to convert to permanently affordable homes. Bond proceeds are distributed across the region to create 34% of the homes in Washington County, 21% in Clackamas County, and 45% in Multnomah County. Bond proceeds are distributed to eligible housing agencies in Washington County including Washington County, Hillsboro, and Beaverton.

Washington County

An important distinction is warranted here. As noted above, Washington County, Hillsboro, and Beaverton are considered entitlement communities because they meet the federal definition of a housing agency (city with a population of at least 50,000 or urban counties with populations of at least 200,000) and are, therefore, eligible for state and federal entitlement and grant monies that the

City is not eligible for. These monies are used to administer the County's Department of Housing Services whose services include, but are not limited to, acquisition of real property, relocation and demolition, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, certain income payments, and construction of new affordable housing.

The City of Forest Grove, as with all other cities in Washington County (and Oregon) under 50,000 in population, partner with and rely on Washington County (or their home county) for housing services as they have a dedicated funding stream to address this issue. The City of Forest Grove does not have a funding stream, nor is it eligible to directly receive these county, state, and federal entitlement and grant monies for housing. As a result, Forest Grove has relied on local Community Enhancement Program grant monies to help fund needed social services.

Additionally, Washington County receives all federal and state funding for the administration of social services, namely the Department of Health and Human Services. Programs within this department include, but are not limited to, mental health; disabled, aging and veterans; women, infant and children; and disease control and prevention. For example, the Hawthorne Walk-In Center, a non-profit dedicated to providing urgent care for mental health, addiction, and persons experiencing homelessness, is partially funded by county monies received by the state and/or federal government.

The County also has a Department of Housing Services (DHS) whose mission is to provide a continuum of affordable housing options. The Department includes the Housing Authority, a separate legal entity that contracts with the County to implement and administer Housing Authority programs and all support services (e.g. finance, purchasing, and personnel); and is the lead agency for the County's plan to end homelessness. The DHS offers rental assistance to low income households through various federally funded programs and also creates affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income households through a combination of creative financing and partnerships with non-profits and private entities. Lastly, DHS also administers the Point in Time survey to gauge the number of homeless persons in the County.

The County is the lead agency for the "The Road Home", a plan to end homelessness in Washington County. The County's homeless efforts are guided by the 17-member Homeless Plan Advisory Committee which includes a representative from each of the following categories: Washington County Commissioner, a mayor or city councilor, philanthropy, business, Housing Authority of Washington County, a nonprofit housing provider, a nonprofit service provider, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Washington County Community Corrections, state or federal entitlement/mainstream resource programs, a representative from the two major hospitals, a representative from the faith community, 3 citizens at-large and a homeless/formerly homeless consumer. Forest Grove City Councilor Elena Uhing serves on this committee.

City of Forest Grove

In 2018, the City passed an ordinance allowing property tax exemptions to non-profit organizations that build eligible affordable housing for low-income households earning at or below 60% of the Area Median Income. The City also passed a density bonus to incentivize affordable housing in the community commercial zone at or below 60% of the Area Median Income.

The City has provided housing and/or social services through Community Enhancement Program (CEP) grant funds. CEP funds are programmed by Metro and are derived from solid waste tonnage at the Waste Management Disposal Site in Forest Grove. CEP funds can be used to award grants to local non-profits to provide housing and social services. The City awards approximately \$100,000/year in these funds - among the highest per capita in grant awards in the County.

Prior to CEP funds becoming available some 30 years ago and prior to the 5-year Local Option Levy, the City dedicated 1/10 of 1% of the City's total operating budget to the administration of social services and awarded those funds to eligible non-profits. Only general fund monies were used to fund these social services. The amount awarded then, adjusted for inflation, is about the same amount that is awarded now through CEP. Additionally, please recall the 5-Year Local Option Levy was dedicated to Police, Fire, Parks and Library and did not contain any provisions for housing or social services.

In 2019, the City partnered with the Temporary Emergency Shelter Program to amend the Development Code to define and allow temporary shelters in the downtown core under certain conditions. The City is currently working collaboratively with Project Homeless Connect and the Forest Grove Foundation to respond to multiple inquiries about zoning for certain properties being considered for possible homeless sheltering.

This past year, the CEP Committee, composed of the City Council and Metro Councilor Juan Gonzalez, created a new grant program called the Impact Grant. The Impact Grant is awarded once every three years to a qualifying non-profit for up to \$40,000/year (the previous maximum was \$10,000/year) for a maximum of \$120,000 over three years. Projects or programs are intended to emphasize direct services, innovation and creativity, measurable outcomes, financial sustainability, and collaboration with community partners. In recognition of funding social services, the CEP Committee stated specifically that capital projects are not eligible for Impact Grant funding.

The Impact Grant was awarded to the Forest Grove Foundation in July, 2020, to assist with homelessness. Staff recently completed a preliminary review of the grant contract and has provided it to Council. The temporary emergency shelter model has changed significantly due to COVID from a congregate to a non-congregate model; in essence, having guests stay in rooms separated from one another in lieu of persons congregated in one room without separation.

Community Action Organization, a local non-profit, offers a low-income energy assistance program using federal funds for that purpose. The City also offers the Customer Assistance Program for electricity and water for low-income households. The City budgets \$75,000/year for electric and \$40,000/year for water. The City programs utilize the same qualifications as Community Action's Utility Assistance Program.

In response to the pandemic, the City staff also facilitated communications and coordinated the delivery of essential food services among 7 local providers including the School District, Pacific, Senior Center, Oregon Food Bank, Washington County, and more. This included utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to draw all providers together and provide a common platform to coordinate and deliver services.

This also involved signing up and training volunteers under the City's volunteer program and allowing them access to the Fire Station, parking lot, and fueling station to securely store and fuel the food truck. The Forest Grove Foundation recently purchased a new food truck to deliver food services that was funded through the County using CARES monies. The City is providing space to securely park the truck. The City is working on a transition plan with the Foundation to find a long-term parking location and funding for fuel for which the Foundation is seeking grant funds. The food truck is used nearly daily to administer food services to persons experiencing homelessness.

Non-Profits

There are many non-profits that address homelessness and nearly all of them are eligible for city, county, state, and/or federal funding, provided they meet the program requirements. Most non-profits are also eligible for tax-deductible private donations. Below are a few examples of local non-profits that provide homelessness services – these are provided for context only and not intended to represent an exhaustive list – any omissions is purely incidental.

Forest Grove Foundation: as noted above, the City grants \$40,000/year to the Foundation to provide homelessness services. The Foundation is currently providing homeless outreach services that includes direct contact with persons experiencing homelessness and assisting them with basic services such as food and shelter. This also includes referrals to shelters and social services and coordinating with volunteers and non-profits to provide essential food and shelter.

The Foundation also coordinates the Anti-Poverty Work Group which seeks to coordinate local homeless efforts and is composed of local non-profits, faith groups, and City representatives. The Foundation is working with the City on storing and staffing the food truck. Lastly, the Foundation has been assisting parties interested in purchasing facilities to provide long-term sheltering options.

Community Action: Community Action has agreements with Washington County using federal, state, and county funding, to administer utility assistance and homeless service programs. The utility assistance program is for low income households and pays for electricity. For residents of Forest Grove, the City also offers a Customer Assistance Program if these funds are depleted.

The homeless services program administers Community Connect, a one-stop coordinated entry system that helps people experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness to find community resources, including housing options, in Washington County by calling Community Connect at 503-640-3263 to find out if help is available. Community Action has staff on hand to schedule a one-hour assessment appointment with clients to determine the community resources and programs that might best support their needs. If a client is eligible, referrals will be made to partner agencies based on the assessment of need and available housing beds/units.

Centro Cultural: Since the pandemic, Centro Cultural has offered expanded services for those experiencing homelessness including food and sheltering options and facilitating communications to other providers of assistance.

Family Promise: Family Promise is a program serving families experiencing homelessness by providing temporary day and night shelters, case management (coaching) resources, advocacy and

referrals for families with children that reside in their shelter program. The day house is a home where they can store their food, prepare breakfast and lunch, care for their children, shower, do laundry and access onsite case management (a requirement of the program) to work towards becoming self-sufficient and moving into a home of their own.

Shelters are provided at local church congregations. Families rotate weekly among congregations in Hillsboro (4), Aloha (1), Beaverton (1), Cornelius (1), and Forest Grove (3). Each host congregation provides overnight sleeping accommodations in a private room set aside for each family and 2 overnight volunteers also sleep at the church to provide a safe caring community.

Boys & Girls Aid: Boys and Girls Aid offers programs focused on preventing homelessness for youth and young adults (12-20) by providing safety and the opportunity to put long term plans in place. They administer the 24/7 Safe Place shelter where youth can access essential services while longer-term housing is found. They offer the Compass program which supports youth aging out of the foster care system by providing services to help them during this transition. And, they provide the Transitional Living Program that supports young adults who face housing instability or homelessness by providing services that enable them to become self-sufficient.

DISCUSSION:

City Council Objective 3.1 states “Partner to help those experiencing homelessness.” Since the objective’s inception in April, 2020, the City developed the first-ever Impact Grant Program, solicited proposals, and the Council awarded 40% of future CEP funds - \$40,000/year for three years – to the Forest Grove Foundation to assist with homelessness.

In addition, the City partnered with the Foundation to coordinate, secure, store, and volunteer for the delivery of essential food services during COVID. The City continues to participate in work groups to bring parties together and coordinate the delivery of essential services. These efforts built upon plan and code amendments to incentivize affordable housing for those at or below 60% AMI and the Urban Renewal Board requesting affordable housing in the development of Site B.

Staff encourages Council to explore the role and responsibility of the City in addressing homelessness to enable refinement of the goals and objectives at the 2021 Annual Retreat. Some questions to enable discussion include:

- Recognizing the funding and service limitations placed on cities and the services offered by existing providers, what is the City’s role in addressing homelessness?
- What are the trade-offs in funding and impacts to other services if the City’s role is reduced or expanded?
- How does long-term planning designed to address housing supply and incentivize affordable housing impact persons becoming homeless?
- Can additional CEP funding be used for homeless services and if so, what are the impacts?



HOMELESS LEGISLATION:

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Kevin Campbell, OACP/OSSA Lobbyist
6-29-2021

The following identifies the legislation passed during the 2021 Legislative Session addressing homelessness and provides details regarding the key provisions for each measure:

HB 2006 – Emergency Shelters/Transitional Housing Accommodations/Low-barrier Emergency Shelters and Navigation Centers

Emergency Shelters

- Defines “emergency shelter” as a building or cluster of buildings that provides shelter on a temporary basis for individuals and families who lack permanent housing.
- Provides that a building or cluster of buildings used as an emergency shelter under an approval granted under section 3 of this 2021 Act or section 11, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session):
 - May resume its use as an emergency shelter after an interruption or abandonment of that use for two years or less, notwithstanding ORS 215.130 (7).
 - May not be used for any purpose other than as an emergency shelter except upon application for a permit demonstrating that the construction of the building and its use could be approved under current land use laws and local land use regulations.
- Provides that an approval of an emergency shelter under this measure or section 11, chapter 12, Oregon Laws 2020 (first special session) is void unless the shelter is operating within two years following the approval.
- Requires a local government to approve an application for the development or use of land for an emergency shelter, if the emergency shelter:
 - Includes sleeping and restroom facilities for clients
 - Will comply with applicable building codes
 - Is located inside and urban growth boundary or in an area zoned for rural residential use
 - Will not result in the development of a new building that is sited within an area designated under a statewide planning goal relating to natural disasters and hazards (flood plains or mapped environmental health hazards) unless the development complies with regulations directly related to the hazard;
 - Has adequate transportation access to commercial and medical services; and
 - Will not pose any unreasonable risk to public health or safety.

- Requires an emergency shelter, as defined by the measure, to be operated by:
 - A local government (ORS 174.116)
 - An organization with at least two years of experience operating and emergency shelter using best practices that is:
 - A local housing authority (ORS 456.375)
 - A religious corporation (ORS 65.001); or
 - A public benefit corporation (ORS 65.001), whose charitable purpose includes the support of homeless individuals, that has been recognized as exempt from income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code on or before January 1, 2018; or
 - A nonprofit corporation partnering with any other entity identified as an approved operator by the measure.
- Provides that an emergency shelter approved under the provisions of the measure:
 - May provide the following on-site for its clients and at no cost to the clients:
 - Showering or bathing;
 - Storage for personal property;
 - Laundry facilities;
 - Service of food prepared on-site or off-site;
 - Recreation areas for children and pets;
 - Case management services for housing, financial, vocational, educational or physical or behavioral health care services; or
 - Any other services incidental to shelter.
 - May include youth shelters, winter or warming shelters, day shelters and family violence shelter homes (ORS 409.290).
- Provides that an emergency shelter approved based on the provisions of this measure are authorized to provide additional services to individuals who are transitioning from unsheltered homeless status and allows the organization providing services to charge a fee of no more than \$300 per month per client and only to clients who are financially able to pay the fee and who request the services.
- Clarifies that the approval of an emergency shelter as defined by the measure is not a land use decision and is subject to review only under ORS 34.010 to 34.100.
- Provides that the emergency shelter approval requirement/process is repealed on July 1, 2022 for applications not completed and submitted before the date of the repeal.

Enhanced Transitional Housing Accommodations Definition

- Amends the definition of “transitional housing accommodations” to include areas in parking lots or facilities for individuals or families to reside overnight in a motor vehicle, without regard to whether the motor vehicle was designed for use as temporary living quarters.
- Provides that any political subdivision may:

- Allow any public or private entity to allow overnight camping by homeless individuals living in vehicles on the property of the entity.
 - may impose reasonable conditions upon offering camping space, including establishing a maximum number of vehicles allowed.
- Requires entities approved by a political subdivision to provide camping spaces must also provide access to sanitary facilities, including toilet, handwashing and trash disposal facilities.
- Authorizes the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to use resources from the Emergency Housing Account for development of technical assistance and training resources for organizations developing and operating emergency shelters and transitional housing accommodations based on the measure.

Low-barrier emergency shelters:

- Defines “low-barrier emergency shelter” as an emergency shelter that follows established best practices to deliver shelter services that minimize barriers and increase access to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Requires the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to award grants and provide technical assistance to organizations to fund:
 - The construction, purchase or lease of facilities to be used as low-barrier emergency shelters;
 - The operation, use or staffing of low-barrier emergency shelters, including the costs to provide clients with access to the shelters;
 - The development or use of amenities or facilities that provide no-cost services to individuals and families who are homeless, including restroom and hygiene facilities, laundry facilities, dining facilities, storage for personal property, meeting or gathering spaces and facilities providing case management services; or
 - Rapid rehousing services and supports for individuals and families.
- Requires the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department to:
 - Ensure that funds are distributed among different region of the state; and
 - Prioritize funding areas of highest need as identified in the August 2019 Oregon Statewide Shelter Study.
 - Ensure that grants are awarded through a competitive process that emphasizes collaborative proposals; or to one or more community action agencies.

Navigation Centers

- Defines “navigation center” as a low-barrier emergency shelter that is open seven days per week and connects individuals and families with health services, permanent housing and public benefits.
- Authorizes the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to award grants to local governments to:
 - Plan the location, development or operations of a navigation center;
 - Construct, purchase or lease a building for use as a navigation center;

- Operate a navigation center that has been constructed, purchased or leased; or
- Contract for the performance of activities related to a navigation center.
- Requires local governments receiving a grant to return all moneys granted if the navigation center subject to the grant is not operating on or before July 1, 2022.
- The following grants were awarded to specified nonprofit organizations and local governments through HB 5042 to establish and/or operate navigation centers to assist individuals and families with access to health services, permanent housing, and public benefits. The grants were awarded as follows:
 - \$1,500,000 to the City of McMinnville for a navigation center;
 - \$1,500,000 to the City of Roseburg for a navigation center;
 - \$2,000,000 to Bybee Lakes Hope Center for a navigation center;
 - 2,500,000 to the City of Bend for a navigation center;
 - \$2,500,000 to the City of Medford for a navigation center;
 - \$5,000,000 to the City of Salem for a navigation center; and
 - \$5,000,000 to Lane County for a navigation center within the City of Eugene

HB 3115 – Homelessness: Codification of Martin v. Boise

HB 3115 seeks to codify the 2019 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Martin v. Boise relating to local laws regulating the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping, or keeping warm and dry in outdoor public spaces with regards to persons experiencing homelessness. The measure includes the following key provisions:

- Defines “keeping warm and dry” to mean using measures necessary for an individual to survive outdoors given the environmental conditions but does not include using any measure that involves fire or flame.
- Defines “public property” to mean the term as it is defined in ORS 131.705.
- Provides that “city or county law” does not include policies developed pursuant to ORS 203.077 or 203.079.
- Provides that any city or county law that regulates the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place and manner with regards to persons experiencing homelessness.
- Creates an affirmative defense to a charge of violating a city or county law regulating the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public that the law is not objectively reasonable.
- Authorizes a person experiencing homelessness to bring suit for injunctive or declaratory relief to challenge the objective reasonableness of these city or county laws and requires that the action be brought in the circuit court of the county that enacted the law or of the county in which the city that enacted the law is located.

- Requires “reasonableness” to be determined based on the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the impact of the law on persons experiencing homelessness.
- Allows the court, in its discretion, to award reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff if the plaintiff:
 - Was not seeking to vindicate an interest unique to the plaintiff; and
 - At least 90 days before the action was filed, provided written notice to the governing body of the city or county that enacted the law being challenged of an intent to bring the action and the notice provided the governing body with actual notice of the bases the plaintiff intends to challenge the law.
- Clarifies that the measure does not create a private right of action for monetary damages.
- Provides that the requirements of the measure become operative on July 1, 2023

HB 3124 – Removal of Homeless from Established Camping Sites – Notice and Personal Property Requirements

- Defines “personal Property as any item that can reasonably be identified as belonging to an individual and that has apparent value or utility.
- Requires law enforcement officials, at least 72 hours before removing homeless individuals from an established camping site to post a written notice in English and Spanish at all entrances to the camping site to the extent that the entrances can reasonably be identified.
- Requires law enforcement officials, when a 72-hour notice is posted, to inform the local agency that delivers social services to homeless individuals as to where the notice has been posted.
- Requires all personal property at the camping site that remains unclaimed after removal to be given to a:
 - law enforcement official,
 - local agency that delivers social services to homeless individuals,
 - outreach worker,
 - local agency official or a person authorized to issue a citation for unlawful camping under state law, administrative rule or city or county ordinance, whether the 72-notice is required or not.
- Requires unclaimed personal property to be stored:
 - For property removed from camping sites in counties other than Multnomah County, in a facility located in the same community as the camping site from which it was removed.
 - For property removed from camping sites in Multnomah County, in a facility located within six blocks of a public transit station.
 - Items that have no apparent value or utility or are in an insanitary condition may be immediately discarded upon removal of the homeless individuals from the camping site.

- Weapons, controlled substances other than prescription medication and items that appear to be either stolen or evidence of a crime shall be given to or retained by law enforcement officials.
- Requires the written notice, at a minimum, to include:
 - Where unclaimed personal property will be stored;
 - A phone number that individuals may call to find out where the property will be stored; or
 - If a permanent storage location has not yet been determined, the address and phone number of an agency that will have the information when available.
- Requires unclaimed property to be stored in an orderly fashion, keeping items that belong to an individual together to the extent that ownership can reasonably be determined.
- Requires personal property to be stored for a minimum of 30 days during which time it shall be reasonably available to any individual claiming ownership.
- Personal property unclaimed after 30 day may be disposed of or donated to a 501(c)(3) corporation (Internal Revenue Code as amended and in effect on Dec. 31, 2020).
- Provides that the 72-hour notice requirement does not apply:
 - When there are grounds for law enforcement officials to believe that illegal activities other than camping are occurring at an established camping site.
 - In the event of an exceptional emergency at an established camping site, including, but not limited to, possible site contamination by hazardous materials, a public health emergency or other immediate danger to human life or safety.
- Allows a notice to be posted at least 24 hours before removing individuals from a camping site if a funeral service is scheduled with less than 72 hours' notice at a cemetery at which there is a camping site, or a camping site is established at the cemetery less than 72 hours before the scheduled service.
- Prohibits a person authorized to issue a citation for unlawful camping (under state law, administrative rule or city or county ordinance) from issuing a citation within 200 feet of a notice required by the measure and within two hours before or after the notice was posted.
- Provides that any law or policy of a city or county that is more specific or offers greater protections to homeless individuals subject to removal from an established camping site preempts contrary provisions of this measure.
- Effective Date: Took effect on the date the Governor signed the measure into law on June 23, 2021.

HB 3261 – Project Turnkey: Zoning for Hotel/Motel Conversion to Emergency Shelter/Affordable Housing

- Requires a local government to unconditionally allow the conversion of the lawful use of a property, notwithstanding any statewide land use planning goals or land use regulations:
 - From use as a hotel or motel, to use as an emergency shelter.
 - From use as a hotel or motel, or a hotel or motel that was converted to an emergency shelter, to use as affordable housing.
- Provides that the conversion requirement only applies to areas:
 - Within an urban growth boundary;
 - Not designated by the local government as specifically for heavy industrial uses;
 - With adequate transportation access to commercial and medical services; and
 - Not within an area designated for a statewide land use planning goal relating to natural disasters or hazards, including flood plains or mapped environmental health hazards, unless the converted use complies with regulations directly related to the disasters or hazards.
- Authorizes a local government to require a converted use to comply with:
 - Applicable building codes;
 - Occupancy limits; or
 - For affordable housing uses, reasonable standards relating to siting or design, if the standards do not, individually or cumulatively, prohibit the conversion through unreasonable costs or delay.
- Provides that conversions identified by the measure does not constitute a land use decision as defined in ORS 197.015.
- Provides that a local government is not required to consider whether the conversion significantly affects an existing or planned transportation facility for the purposes of implementing a statewide land use planning goal relating to transportation.
- Defines the following terms for purposes of the measure:
 - “Affordable housing” means housing in which all units are affordable to households with incomes equal to or less than 60 percent of the area median income as defined in ORS 458.610 and whose affordability is enforceable by an affordable housing covenant, as described in ORS 456.270 to 456.295, for a duration of no less than 30 years.
 - “Conversion” includes an alteration to a building that changes the number of units but does not expand the building footprint.
 - “Emergency shelter” means a building that provides shelter on a temporary basis for individuals and families who lack permanent housing.
 - “Lawful use” includes a nonconforming use as described in ORS 215.130 (6) or any other local land use regulation allowing for the continuation of a use that was lawful when first enacted.
- Applies to conversions or applications for conversions on or after January 1, 2021.

- **Effective Date:** Took effect on the date the Governor signed the measure into law on May 6, 2021.

NOTE: In 2020, the Oregon Legislature allocated a total of \$65 million of CARES Act funding through the Oregon Joint Legislative Emergency Board for Project Turnkey for the purpose of acquiring motels/hotels for use as non-congregate shelter for people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. The two funds included:

- \$30 million designated for shelter opportunities in counties or tribal communities impacted by the 2020 wildfires has been fully allocated, resulting in the funding of seven projects for a total of 388 units in six counties (appropriated on 10/23/2020).
- \$35 million designated for shelter opportunities in the remaining areas of the state. Of this amount, \$31.2 million has been allocated to date (appropriated on 11/9/2020).

During the 2021 Legislative Session, an additional 9.7 million was appropriated in HB 2004 to the Oregon Community Foundation to complete Project Turnkey projects in Deschutes, Multnomah, Malheur and Yamhill counties. In addition, \$800,000 was appropriated for a Turnkey project in Salem and \$5,107,713 was appropriated for a Turnkey project in Corvallis in HB 5006.

Residential Eviction Safe Harbor Bill Passes

On Friday, June 4, the House Committee on Housing held a hearing during which it became clear that rent assistance would not be widely available in communities before June 30, when the state eviction moratorium expires. As a result, the Legislature introduced a new proposal, which was amended into **SB 278**, to provide help for tenants and landlords. The **-15 amendments** were adopted to SB 278 last Wednesday night, and the bill passed the House floor last Thursday with unanimous support. On Monday, SB 278 received final passage in the Senate with a 27-2 vote.

SB 287 provides 60 days for a tenant who has applied for rent assistance to be qualified for help and receive resources. The 60-day clock begins the day the tenant notifies their landlord that they have applied. A tenant can notify their landlord they've applied for rent assistance until their first appearance in court. The bill changes the rate of compensation for the **Landlord Compensation Fund (LCF)** from 80% to 100%. This change is retroactive, so if a landlord has previously applied for and received funds from the LCF, they will receive additional resources.

SB 278 recognizes that if a tenant is unable to pay rent while they wait for rent assistance, there is risk there to both landlords and tenants – the tenant is accumulating debt they may not be able to pay, and landlords are taking a risk while they wait for rent assistance. The bill provides that the state will stand up a program to compensate landlords who do not receive payment after a tenant's 60-day safe harbor period if the tenant is either ineligible for rent assistance, or the process to determine whether a tenant is eligible for rent assistance is delayed past 60 days.

Legislature Includes Historic Housing Investments in End of Session Bills

In addition to sizeable investments in the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) budget bill ([HB 5011](#)), the Legislature has included historic funding levels for affordable housing and wildfire recovery in the end of session budget and bonding bills.

[HB 5505](#) and [HB 5506](#) provide bonding limitation and \$410 million in general obligation bonds to support the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) affordable housing program and develop new Permanent Supportive Housing, both key components of the LOC's affordable housing priority this session. This is more than double the investment from 2019.

In addition, the lottery bond bill ([SB 5534](#)) includes \$30 million in lottery bonds for wildfire recovery housing supply and \$20 million lottery bonds for land acquisition to support wildfire housing recovery.

Finally, [HB 5006](#), the "Christmas Tree" bill, includes \$100 million in general funds for the preservation of existing affordable housing, a substantial increase from previous biennium. HB 5006 also includes:

- \$30 million for land acquisition or naturally occurring affordable housing acquisition;
- \$5 million for housing for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors; and
- An additional \$100 million for wildfire recovery, covering housing development, construction, infrastructure, rebuilding, down payment assistance, loans and services.

Wildfire impacted cities and counties will receive direct funding to support and increase capacity for local planning and building departments to process rebuilding applications.

Homeless Encampment Management Program

A coordinated countywide response to individuals living in homeless encampments that balances the health and safety needs of all community members.



Program Overview	Washington County is experiencing an unprecedented rise in homelessness, including a dramatic increase in people camping outdoors in public locations. In response, the Board of County Commissioners has approved the creation of a one-year program to improve encampment management coordination across jurisdictional boundaries and to address many related challenges. The program will follow existing CDC guidance to allow homeless people who are living in campsites to remain where they are during the COVID-19 pandemic. Strategies employed will take into consideration the overall health and safety of people living in the camps, as well as residents in surrounding neighborhoods. This effort will also inform ongoing plans to develop longer-term, sustainably funded solutions that reduce homelessness and provide pathways to permanent supportive housing.
Key Elements	The following represent key County strategies to ensure effective coordination and support among all jurisdictional and community partners: • Intensive encampment outreach and housing navigation services • Centralized point of contact for community members and stakeholders • Sanitary and solid waste management • Periodic scored assessments of health and safety risks • Comprehensive communications plan • Regular tactical operations meetings between participating allied agencies • Dedicated Sheriff's Office outreach deputy to help address public safety concerns and coordinate with other law enforcement partners.
Multi-jurisdictional Approach	Washington County is known for its innovative partnerships that allow us to address a wide range of issues facing our diverse community. To successfully meet the current challenge of homelessness and homeless encampments across multiple jurisdictions, we must once again bring our expertise, creativity and resources to the table for the common good. Under the County's organizational framework, our city and special district partners are encouraged to join in this unique opportunity to meet the urgent needs of our most vulnerable neighbors, as well as the very understandable livability and safety concerns of nearby residents.
Funding Strategy	On June 22, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the allocation of \$1.95M in ARPA funds to support the Homeless Encampment Management Program. The Board is also in agreement that city and special district partners be given the opportunity to not only contribute staff time and expertise but also provide a proportion of the funding that ensures a consistent, coordinated and efficient countywide approach to managing homeless encampments.

For more information regarding Washington County's response to homelessness during the COVID-19 crisis, please visit www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/outreach-and-encampments.cfm.

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Washington County

12 Month Encampment Program

Multi-Departmental

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Washington County 12 Month Encampment Program

12-month program plan designed for unincorporated Washington County with ability to extend into incorporated areas

- Funded with limited duration funds through ARPA
- Opportunity for jurisdictions to receive County support on accessing encampments, safety/hygiene measures, specialized law enforcement support, outreach and navigation and camp cleanup if/when necessary.
- Centralized point of contact within County structure where encampments can be reported by constituents. County would have dedicated website page, contact information and response.

Multi-Departmental Encampment Strategy

- To improve coordination between departments, cities, special districts and our community.
- Opportunity for cross-jurisdictional coordination and meetings

Potential Long-Term Partnership with Jurisdictions

- Option for jurisdictions to partner with County on long-term strategy.

→ Background



- Significant increase of homeless encampments, geographically dispersed throughout, beyond unincorporated Washington County.
- Challenge of balancing between provision of humane services to homeless community and livability of community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- High risk population with low Covid vaccination uptake



Current Work

Achievements

- ✓ **Coordinated** with street outreach teams
- ✓ **Collaborated** with LUT on initial clean up, utilizing dumpsters
- ✓ **Implemented** weekly trash service to maintain property, porta potties, and handwashing stations.
- ✓ **Partnership** with teams to monitor and continue provision of essentials and housing navigation

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Short-Term

12-Month Program

Program

Assessment Criteria: An assessment tool to guide decisions on clean up and/or removal or support camp in place

- ☐ **Services Matrix:** chart to establish operating procedures
- ☐ **Policy:** plan to coordinate efforts, street outreach and code enforcement/public safety



Long-Term

Sustainability

To Be Determined

Program Outcome:

Scope and length of the program?
Should the program be countywide with shared accountability with cities?
What is the best sustainable funding model?

Legislative Outcome:

HB 3115: Adjust program results to align with legislation and County and City operations and funding sources



12 Month Program Benefits

A twelve (12) month countywide homeless encampment program using limited duration ARPA funds

- Intensive outreach and navigation
- Centralized point of contact
- Scored health and safety decision tool
- Ensure sanitary conditions
- Camp clean up
- Secure storage of personal affects
- HOPE deputy
- Communication strategy
- Cross department coordination
- Cross jurisdictional coordination
- Additional street outreach
- Web-page
- Data collection and reporting

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5



Foundational Considerations for Jurisdictional Partners

- Does your jurisdiction want to partner with the County on this 12-month encampment program? If so, how would your jurisdiction want to partner around specific issues like code enforcement/law enforcement?
- Does your jurisdiction support the County's approach of shelter in place when encampments are not safety/health concerns and removal if/when encampments do become a safety/health concern?
- Does your jurisdiction want to partner with the County on a long-term sustainable homeless encampment program?



CAMP EXPECTATIONS

- No criminal, violent or threatening behavior.
- Maintain “quiet hours” from 10 pm—6 am.
- No open fires are allowed.
- Cooking must be limited to camp stoves or grills with propane or charcoal as fuel.
- To the best of your ability, maintain the cleanliness of the area.
- Dispose of trash, bio-hazards and other unwanted items (*including food and food scraps*) in containers provided.
- Be respectful of surrounding neighbors and avoid disturbances or confrontations.
- No structures, vehicles or RVs of any kind are allowed.



The Forest Grove Inn at 4433 Pacific Ave. will become a culturally specific shelter operated by Centro Cultural de Washington County.

COURTESY PHOTO:
OREGON COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Centro to create shelter in Forest Grove

Centro Cultural received grant to turn Forest Grove Inn into shelter

By **MAX EGNER**
Pamplin Media Group

Centro Cultural de Washington County plans to turn a motel in Forest Grove into a respite shelter for people impacted by COVID-19 and other at-risk groups after receiving grant funding for the project.

The Cornelius-based nonprofit, which assists low-income Latino families, received a \$2.2 million grant from Project Turnkey to purchase the 20-room Forest Grove Inn at 4433 Pacific Ave., according to a Tuesday, May 4, announcement from the Oregon Community Foundation.

The foundation is administering Project Turnkey, which was created by the Oregon State Legislature last fall using \$65 million.

The project seeks to turn hotels across the state into non-congregate shelters for single adults experiencing

homelessness and people impacted by the 2020 wildfires and the pandemic.

The grant is the second provided by Project Turnkey in Washington County. In April, the program awarded a grant to Washington County to operate a year-round shelter in Hillsboro.

In addition to being a COVID-19 respite shelter for displaced, low-income Latino families, the Forest Grove property will also serve seasonal and migrant farmworkers and others needing shelter, OCF officials said.

People at the shelter will have access to meals, clothing, and essentials such as showers, laundry and hygiene items.

Long-term, Centro plans to offer Latino shelter residents trauma-informed and culturally specific programs to help them attain stability.

Maria Caballero Rubio, director of Centro, said in a statement the pandemic and its disproportionate impact on Latinos have “challenged Centro like no other time in our organization’s history.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Latinos in Washington County and across the state have contracted COVID-19 at a higher rate than

other groups. Nearly 40% of positive cases in Washington County are among people who identify as Hispanic while the group accounts for 15% of the population, according to county data.

Research suggests disparities in housing, transportation and employment in jobs such as agriculture and food processing put Latinos at a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19, according to a review led by OHSU and the VA Portland Health Care System published last December.

Caballero Rubio said the pandemic pushed many working people assisted by Centro into homelessness.

“Before the pandemic, many people were renting a garage, basement, or attic and sometimes an extra bedroom for an entire family in a relative’s home,” she said. “These are who are referred to as ‘the working poor’ who often work (two) jobs to make ends meet and some may not have work status so if they don’t show up for work, they are replaced the same day. They have been on the verge of homelessness for a while.”

Caballero Rubio said the grant helps Centro fulfill its mission to assist those working people.

During the pandemic, homeless people have been using the Forest Grove Inn for shelter through a room voucher program by Washington County.

Caballero Rubio said there are 18 people already using the motel as a shelter through the county’s program.

People currently using the motel as a shelter will be able to continue through June, Caballero Rubio said, adding that Centro will take ownership of the motel on May 21.

Some people wishing to access Centro’s culturally specific programs will continue to stay there between July and September, while others won’t, Caballero Rubio said.

“Our goal is to secure funding through September to provide transitional services for them like connecting them with services, getting into treatment if necessary, finding permanent housing so they don’t have to go back to the street,” she said. “We will help those who want to prepare for a job through our workforce training center.”

In September, Centro plans to renovate the motel, adding kitchenettes to the rooms, to operate the nonprofit’s culturally specific programs long-term, she said.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding for WashCo.

When Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), it gave Oregon legislators a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide funding for their districts. The Oregon Legislature split \$240 million in ARPA funds between members, giving Senators \$4 million that could be spread across 4 projects and Representatives \$2 million each to be spent on 4 projects in their districts. Senator Riley, Representative Sollman, and I combined our money to bring much needed funding to 11 different projects/groups in Washington County. Here is where our ARPA funds are going:

Pedestrian Pathways Improvements and Jessie Mays Community Park

City of North Plains
\$1,800,000



Two Electric School Buses

Hillsboro School District
\$1,000,000



Affordable Housing-Century Boulevard Community

Habitat for Humanity
\$1,700,000



Community Center Improvements

Forest Grove Senior Center
\$300,000



Forest Grove Foundation Housing for Homeless Persons

Forest Grove Foundation
\$680,000



Plaza Los Amigos in Cornelius

Bienestar
\$500,000



Centro Food Services Building

Centro Cultural
\$660,000



Food Security for Economically Vulnerable Immigrant Families during Covid-19 recovery.

Adelante Mujeres

\$160,000



Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon Property Acquisition Fund

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

\$500,000



House Rehabilitation Project for our Homeless Community Members

Family Promise of Washington County

\$500,000



Bilingual Career Kits

Hillsboro Schools Foundation

\$200,000

