

Contract Review Sheet

Grant Agreement

HE-6348-24

Title: Share Initiative Memorandum of Understanding

Contractor's Name: PacificSource Community Solutions

Department: Health and Human Services

Contact: Lyndsie Schwarz

Analyst: Sandra Fixsen

Phone #: (503) 584-4898

Term - Date From: Upon signature

Expires: December 31, 2026

Original Contract Amount: \$ 135,200.00

Previous Amendments Amount: \$ -

Current Amendment: \$ -

New Contract Total: \$ 135,200.00

Amd% 0%

X Incoming Funds Federal Funds Reinstatement Retroactive Amendment greater than 25%

Source Selection Method: Not Applicable (Incoming Funds)

Description of Services or Grant Award

Marion County Health & Human Services (MCHHS) was awarded SHARE GRANTEE by PacificSource Community Solutions (PCS) and includes SHARE initiative Spending Plan approval by Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The SHARE GRANTEE "Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program" (CEHOP) aims to provide supports that facilitate safe and permanent housing by enhancing the provision of barrier removal and pre-tenancy services for individuals and families who do not fit within the eligibility requirements of existing housing initiatives. The program will also offer transportation-related resources.

Desired BOC Session Date: 1/22/2025

Contract should be in DocuSign by: 1/1/2025

Agenda Planning Date: 1/9/2025

Printed packets due in Finance: 1/7/2025

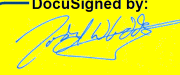
Management Update: 1/14/2025

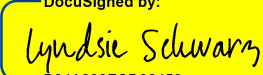
BOC upload / Board Session email: 1/8/2025


BOC Session Presenter(s) Christina Bertschi

Code: Y

REQUIRED APPROVALS

DocuSigned by:  12/26/2024
 Finance - Contracts Date

DocuSigned by:  1/2/2025
 Contract Specialist Date

Signed by:  12/26/2024
 Legal Counsel Date

DocuSigned by:  12/26/2024
 Chief Administrative Officer Date



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: January 22, 2024

Department: Health & Human Services

Title: PacificSource Community Solutions Share Initiative Memorandum of Understanding

Management Update/Work Session Date: January 14, 2024 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 10 mins Contact: Lyndsie Schwarz Phone: 503-584-4898

Requested Action: Approval

Issue, Description & Background: Marion County Health & Human Services (MCHHS) was awarded SHARE GRANTEE by PacificSource Community Solutions (PCS) and includes SHARE initiative Spending Plan approval by Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The SHARE GRANTEE "Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program" (CEHOP) aims to provide supports that facilitate safe and permanent housing by enhancing the provision of barrier removal and pre-tenancy services for individuals and families who do not fit within the eligibility requirements of existing housing initiatives. The program will also offer transportation-related resources.

Financial Impacts: Total incoming funds for the grant award agreement \$135,200.00.

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: N/A

List of attachments: HE-6348-24 PacificSource Share Initiative MOU

Presenter: Christina Bertschi

Department Head Signature: DocuSigned by: Ryan Matthews



PacificSource Community Solutions
 PO Box 5729, Bend, OR 97708-5729
 (800) 431-4135
 CommunitySolutions.PacificSource.com

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SHARE INITIATIVE

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”), by and between PacificSource Community Solutions (“PCS”) and Marion County, Oregon (“SHARE GRANTEE”), collectively the “Parties,” is made for the purpose of memorializing the Parties’ support and commitment to PCS’s Supporting Health for All through REinvestment (“SHARE”) Initiative. This MOU will be effective the later of December 31, 2024, or PCS’s receipt of approval from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) of PCS’s SHARE Initiative Spending Plan (the “Effective Date”).

WHEREAS this MOU sets forth the Parties’ understandings and expectations regarding the SHARE Initiative requirements as outlined by OHA in its Coordinated Care Organization (“CCO”) contract with PCS:

1. **The SHARE Initiative Program.** SHARE GRANTEE shall provide the services described in this section and further agrees to commit to all [OHA SHARE Initiative requirements](#) and the application submitted by SHARE GRANTEE through the Community Impact Grants program. PCS shall provide compensation as provided in this section. Requirements are as follows:
 - a. **Scope of Work.** SHARE GRANTEE’s “Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program” aims to provide supports that facilitate safe and permanent housing by enhancing the provision of barrier removal and pre-tenancy services for individuals and families who do not fit within the eligibility requirements of existing housing initiatives. Additionally, SHARE GRANTEE will also offer transportation-related resources to participants in its various programs.
 - b. **Social Determinants of Health and Equity (“SDOH-E”).** As a key SDOH-E partner, SHARE GRANTEE will:
 - i. Assist program participants, including Marion-Polk CCO members, with navigating to and applying for benefits that address economic stability, neighborhood and built environment, education, social and community health, food and housing insecurity, transportation, and other identified SDOH-E needs.
 - ii. Adopt Unite Us’ ConnectOregon Community Information Exchange platform to screen and refer individuals to resources and services that address identified SDOH-E needs, including, but not limited to, housing, nutrition, and transportation.
 - c. **Compensation and Payment.** PCS will distribute a total of \$135,200 in funds to SHARE GRANTEE, pending OHA’s approval of PCS’s SHARE Initiative Spending Plan (which will be submitted to OHA no later than December 31, 2024).
 - i. PCS will issue payment within 60 days of OHA’s approval notice.

- ii. \$100,000: These funds are intended to cover the costs of barrier removal, which include security deposits, unpaid utility bills, moving expenses, first and last month's rent, and various other housing-related costs. Furthermore, the funds will support the administration of an additional tenant education class. Additionally, they will cover the cost for CEHOP to collaborate with Marion County Housing Authority to utilize software that will facilitate background checks for 150 individuals.
 - iii. \$35,200: These funds are designated to cover the costs of bicycles, bus passes, and gas cards.
 - iv. Indirect costs, including staff benefits, shall not exceed 40% of the total amount of the SHARE Initiative dollars.
 - v. See Appendix A for additional details on project activities and budgeting.
- d. People to be Served.** The priority population(s) to be served by the "Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program" are individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and/or mental health or substance use disorders who are participants in tenant education classes. Individuals receiving transportation resources will be connected to SHARE GRANTEE's housing or health and human services programs.
- i. The "Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program" is projected to serve at least 150, or as many as 806 annually.
 - ii. See Appendix A for estimated impact.
- e. Outcomes.** Expected final outcomes for this project include:
- i. Increase tenant readiness through the delivery of six-week tenant education classes for individuals with IDD and/or mental health or substance use disorders;
 - ii. Enhance pre-tenancy services for individuals with IDD and/or mental health or substance use disorders through portfolio development, including background checks;
 - iii. Reduce barriers to safe and permanent housing for individuals who are homeless with IDD and/or mental health or substance use disorders enrolled in the SHARE GRANTEE's tenant education classes and housing navigation services; and
 - iv. Address SDOH-E related needs by providing transportation resources to individuals served by SHARE GRANTEE.
- f. Program Evaluation.** SHARE GRANTEE will engage in reporting and data collection/sharing in the following ways:
- i. Outcome reporting (based on "Scope of Work" and "People to be Served" elements described above) via a brief (5-10 minute) presentation to the Community Advisory Council (CAC) at the conclusion of the project.
- SHARE GRANTEE will share deidentified, aggregated data with the CAC, including:

1. Total number individuals reached or served,
2. Demographics of individuals served (race, ethnicity, language, disability status, age, primary language, income, etc., as applicable/available).

SHARE GRANTEE will also provide the CAC with:

1. A summary of final project outcomes,
 2. A brief narrative on project’s impact on addressing health equity and/or meeting SDOH-E needs (based on “Social Determinants of Health and Equity” elements described above).
- ii. A brief narrative submitted to PCS outlining any challenges with adoption or use of the Connect Oregon Community Information Exchange platform.
 - iii. There will be no member-level data sharing between PCS and SHARE GRANTEE as part of this grant.
2. **Term.** The understandings and commitments made by the Parties pursuant to this MOU shall remain in effect for two years.
 3. **Non-Exclusive.** This MOU does not create an exclusive arrangement between PCS and SHARE GRANTEE, and either Party may enter into agreements with other parties for similar or the same services or projects.
 4. **Liability.** No liability will arise or be assumed between the Parties as a result of this MOU.
 5. **Governing Law.** This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Oregon, without regard to conflict of laws principles.
 6. **Counterparts.** This MOU may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this MOU on the Effective Date.

PacificSource Community Solutions

Marion County, Oregon

Signature: _____

Signature: See County Signature Page

Name: _____

Name: Ryan Matthews

Title: _____

Title: Administrator

Date: _____

Date: See County Signature Page

**SIGNATURE PAGE FOR
SHARE INITIATIVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - HE-6348-24
between
MARION COUNTY and PACIFICSOURCE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**

**MARION COUNTY SIGNATURES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Chair Date

Commissioner Date

Commissioner Date

Authorized Signature: DocuSigned by:
Ryan Matthews
7D28A787656E458... 12/26/2024

Department Director or designee Date

Authorized Signature: DocuSigned by:
Jan Fritz
DC16351248DE4EC... 12/26/2024

Chief Administrative Officer Date

Reviewed by Signature: Signed by:
Scott Norris
60C98A6F708240B... 12/26/2024

Marion County Legal Counsel Date

Reviewed by Signature: DocuSigned by:
[Signature]
E4592AF8CAA542C... 12/26/2024

Marion County Contracts & Procurement Date

PACIFICSOURCE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS SIGNATURE

Authorized Signature: _____
Date

Title: _____

Appendix A

Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program (CEHOP)

2024-2025 Community Impact Grants

Christina Bertschi
Center Street NE, Suite 2274 Salem, OR
97301

cbertschi@co.marion.or.us
O: 503-576-4608

**Marion
County
Health &
Human
Services**

Christina Bertschi

Center Street NE, Suite 2274
Salem, OR 97301

cbertschi@co.marion.or.us O:
503-576-4608

Application Form

Organization Information

Please indicate if your organization is any of the following (check all that apply)?* A governmental organization or a government entity

If you selected "Other" above...

Please describe your organization type.

Please provide a brief overview of your organization.*

Include your organization's mission, vision, values, and a summary of programs.

Marion County Health & Human Services (MCHHS) is a department within Marion County comprised of four divisions: Administrative Services, Behavioral Health, Human Services, and Public Health. The Human Services Division includes the Housing Programs and Services (Housing Program) and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services. The mission of MCHHS is to “create a safe and welcoming community where all people can access high-quality health and human services and are supported to achieve their highest level of care.” The vision, “Marion County is a vibrant community where all people have opportunities to live a healthy, purposeful life,” and the values, which focus on an environment that is safe and welcoming, community-focused, promotes teamwork and transparency, and continuous improvement, are outlined within the 2019-2023 MCHHS Strategic Plan and subsequent updates.

As stated in the mission of the Housing Program “our mission is to assist individuals and families facing serious and persistent mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities. We strive to help them find, afford, and maintain long-term, safe and secure housing.” The primary focus of the Housing Program is to serve individuals and families who are homeless/at risk of homelessness or transitioning from a higher level of care with mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities by facilitating access to rental subsidies, housing navigation services, and housing-related supports, ultimately leading to the acquisition of stable long-term housing. The Housing Program is comprised of the following: Rental Assistance Program for individuals 26 years of age and older; Young Rental Assistance Program for individuals 17 to 25 years of age; Family Rental Assistance Program for qualifying families; housing navigation services; and special preference Housing Choice Vouchers through the Salem and Marion County Housing Authorities that includes housing navigation for individuals and families in service.

MCHHS actively fosters a safe and inclusive community through its diverse divisions and comprehensive programs. Through the implementation of housing initiatives, MCHHS strives to ensure access to permanent housing, empowering residents to achieve stability and thrive in Marion County's

vibrant community, ultimately maintaining housing and reaching the highest level of independence possible.

Please provide your organization's website.*

Indicate n/a if your organization does not have a website.

<https://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/>

How did you hear about this grant opportunity?*

Christina Bertschi is co-chair of the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance Health and Safety subcommittee and heard about the grant opportunity during a monthly meeting. MCHHS Executive Team also made an announcement of this opportunity and requested proposals from programs within the divisions; Housing Programs and Services proposal was reviewed and accepted by the Executive Team.

Project Overview

Project Name*

Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program (CEHOP)

Project Lead*

Please provide the **first name, last name, and preferred pronouns** of the project lead for this funding request. Christina Bertschi

Email Address*

Please provide the best email address to reach your Project Lead.

cbertschi@co.marion.or.us

Phone Number*

Please provide the best phone number to reach your Project Lead.

503-576-4608

Amount Requested*

Not to exceed \$100,000

\$100,000.00

Project Aim*

In one sentence, please describe what your project aims to do.

The CEHOP will bridge the gap in housing support service delivery for individuals and families who do not fit within the eligibility requirements of existing initiatives by providing access to barrier removal and pretenancy services.

Project Summary*

Please provide a summary of your project in further detail.

MCHHS Housing Programs and Services (Housing Program) proposes implementing the Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program (CEHOP). The primary focus of CEHOP is to facilitate access to safe and permanent housing through the enhanced provision of housing barrier removal and pre-tenancy services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, particularly individuals or heads of households diagnosed with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), mental health disorders, and/or substance use disorders. CEHOP aims to address gaps in housing support services that are not fully covered by Medicaid benefits, and state and federal initiatives.

As the first objective of CEHOP, the Housing Program will provide housing barrier removal services, facilitated in collaboration with the MCHHS Behavioral Health and Human Services Divisions, including Addiction Treatment Services, Adult Behavioral Health, Crisis Services, Youth & Family Services, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, as well as inter-agency collaboration. The housing barrier removal services will promote equity among underserved demographic groups by addressing systemic obstacles that disproportionately affect these populations. These services will provide housing-related financial assistance for individuals with IDD, and/or mental health or substance use disorders who are participants of the Ready to Rent classes. The housing barrier removal services include security deposits, unpaid utility bills, moving costs, first and last month’s rent, and other similar housing-related costs. Currently, the Housing Program administers state-funded initiatives that provide limited barrier removal funds, allocated exclusively for specific target populations, such the Rental Assistance Program and Youth Rental Assistance Program. Similarly, the Oregon 1115 Medicaid Waiver and housing benefits available in November 2024 require individuals to be housed and meet set clinic risk factors, and homeless individuals are not eligible to receive this benefit until November 2025. The Housing Program will bridge the gap in housing support service delivery for individuals and families who do not fit within the eligibility requirements of existing initiatives by providing access to housing support services, and further connecting the individuals and families to the Housing Choice Voucher Program with the Marion County and Salem Housing Authorities, along with other rental subsidy and affordable housing

programs. CEHOP has allocated \$84,000 for the provision of housing barrier removal services and will provide these supports to a minimum of 50 individuals and families.

The second objective of CEHOP is to provide tenant readiness education through the Ready to Rent curriculum, offered in six-week classes, for individuals receiving services through community-based organizations and enrolled in Marion County programs. The curriculum is designed to provide guidance to individuals facing rental barriers, helping them gain access to housing and learn their rights and responsibilities as tenants. The Housing Program will collaborate with the MCHHS Behavioral Health and Human Service Divisions, along with external community-based organizations, to identify individuals who could benefit from this class and require housing-related services. As an extension of the classes, participants will also be eligible to receive housing barrier removal services through CEHOP, as well as other pre-tenancy related services through the Housing Program. Currently, the Housing Program has one certified Ready to Rent instructor, and as part of CEHOP, will certify two additional instructors, one of whom will be bilingual. The Housing Program, as a part of the project, will administer 6 six-week Ready to Rent classes with a maximum of 16 participants per class and will allocate \$10,000 in funding for the administration of these classes.

The third and final objective of CEHOP, focused on pre-tenancy support services, aims to facilitate background checks for individuals seeking housing. This initiative aligns with evidence-based research on pre-tenancy services, including background checks, demonstrating benefits such as enhanced safety and security, establishment of a stable housing environment, mitigation of neighborhood disruptions, promotion of equitable and transparent housing practices, and other related enhancements. The Housing Program will enter into a formal agreement with the Marion County Housing Authority to gain access to their specialized software for conducting comprehensive background checks for individuals seeking housing. This software facilitates the screening process by accessing criminal history records, credit reports, rental histories, and other relevant data to ensure thorough tenant evaluations. The Housing Program will allocate \$6,000 in funding to administer background checks for 150 individuals.

Project Need*

Briefly describe why this project is needed in the Marion-Polk community.

According to the 2021-2025 Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), housing significantly influences social health outcomes, presenting substantial challenges for both Marion County and the entire state of Oregon. These challenges include widespread rental burden and a shortage of housing. During townhall sessions in 2018 for the 2019 Community Health Assessment (CHA), residents from Independence, Salem, Stayton, and Woodburn consistently highlighted affordable housing as a major concern.

Approximately half of renting community members face rental burden, spending 30% or more of their gross household income on rent. Marion County, with a substantial rural population historically reliant on services centralized in Salem, encounters unique barriers due to its geographical dispersion and limited resources, impacting a significant portion of its residents.

In 2019, as indicated in the CHIP, an estimated 1,095 community members experienced homelessness, with about 3% of K-12 students facing housing instability. The National Health Care for the Homeless Council links housing insecurity characterized by high costs, poor quality, unstable neighborhoods, overcrowding, and homelessness to increased risks of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Primary

causes of homelessness reported by community members include unemployment (41%), inability to afford rent (23%), voluntary homelessness (17%), and mental health challenges (16%). Residents stress that access to affordable housing or stable employment is crucial for improving their situations.

211info, a nonprofit providing navigation resources, documented that between February 2020 and December 2020, the top service need for callers from Marion and Polk Counties combined was "Rent Payment

Assistance" (1,507 requests). The most urgent unmet need during this period was "Homeless Motel Vouchers" (133 requests). Over the same timeframe, community members sought assistance from 211 primarily for Health Care (29.76%), Housing (21.68%), Food/Meals (10.48%), and Utility Assistance (10.31%). Callers predominantly identified as White (3,032), followed by Hispanic/Latino/a/x (1,067) and Black/African American (335).

Implementing barrier removal services, tenant education classes, and comprehensive background checks is crucial for addressing homelessness in Marion County. The CHIP highlights housing as pivotal for social health outcomes, and the CEHOP would directly address housing-related challenges.

Connection to Willamette Health Council Mission*

In what ways does your project connect with and support the Willamette Health Council's mission? **Please explain and provide examples.**

Our Mission: To improve the health of the Marion-Polk community by governing our local Coordinated Care Organization, investing in our communities, and fostering collaborative relationships.

The CEHOP will provide funding for more Ready to Rent classes, which will result in increasing the number of individuals/families housed in the community who are educated tenants. The focus of the program is to ensure that the individuals/families housed as a result of our services remain housed long term. The tenant education courses teach individuals how to be good advocates for themselves and how to avoid being taken advantage of by landlords who may have a bias toward individuals with disabilities. The classes will also teach individuals how to be good tenants, which will ultimately lead to fewer evictions within the community. If we are able to prevent evictions from occurring, Marion County will spend less resources on eviction prevention and can reallocate funding to more sustainable investments within the community. The CEHOP will collaborate with community partners by offering to host classes where it is most convenient for the registered individuals. This strategy will foster collaborative partnership and improve community partner relationships. The project aim is to provide additional support to coordinated care organizations, relieving the pressure of coordinated entry system so that coordinated care organizations can focus on the immediate need of providing emergency shelter. Providing the community with tenants who are ready to rent will also strengthen relationships with landlords and property managers with support the Willamette Health Council's mission of investing in our community and fostering collaborative relationships

Which Impact Area(s) does your project address (check all that apply)?*

Note: The Willamette Health Council prioritizes funding projects that align with more than one Impact Area.

Behavioral Health (including mental health and/or substance abuse)

Children, Youth, & Families

Housing & Homelessness

Connection to Impact Area(s) *

Briefly describe the connection between your project and the Impact Area(s) selected above. Additionally, if your project aligns with more than one Impact Area, please explain how your project bridges multiple Impact Areas.

The CEHOP bridges multiple impact areas, behavioral health, young adults and families, and housing and homelessness, by addressing housing barriers, providing tenant education, and ensuring thorough tenant evaluations so that individuals and families can acquire and maintain permanent housing. CEHOP not only aims to secure safe and permanent housing for vulnerable populations but also contributes to broader community development, equity, and well-being goals within Marion County. This comprehensive approach ensures that the project's impact extends beyond immediate housing needs, fostering long-term stability and resilience among individuals and families and the community at large.

CEHOP targets underserved populations such as individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), and mental health and/or substance use disorders. By promoting equity in housing access, the project contributes to broader social equity goals within the community. These services will add to MCHHS existing Housing Programs which offer housing support to families with children, young adults, adults, and older adults who experience a serious and persistent mental illness. CEHOP will also provide a valuable resource to Housing Programs and Services Navigation program that provides housing assistance and connection to a section 8 housing voucher to individuals enrolled in MCHHS Addiction Treatment Services and the Intellectual and Developmental Disability services.

Project Anticipated Start Date*

01/01/2025

Project Anticipated End Date*

01/31/2026

Total People to be Served*

Provide an estimate of the total number of **unique individuals** you hope to serve through your project.

150

Demographics of People to be Served

If a person falls into more than one category listed below, count them for all the categories that apply.

If not applicable, please put 0.

Population(s) Served	Estimated Number To Be Served	Actual Number Served (at 6 months)	Actual Number Served (at 12 months)
Pregnant Individuals	0		
Children (0-5)	0		
Youth (6-17)	5		
Young Adults (18-25)	45		
Adults (26-64)	75		
Older Adults (65+)	25		
Families	52		
People Involved in Foster Care	18		
People Experiencing Housing Insecurity or Homelessness	150		
People Residing in Rural Communities	48		

People in the BIPOC Community	72		
People in the LGBTQIA+ Community	0		
People with Disabilities	150		
Oregon Health Plan/MarionPolk CCO Members	150		
Tribal Members	16		
Population(s) Served	806		

What geographic area will your project serve (check all that apply)?*

Marion County

If you selected "Other" above...

Please list the additional counties your project will serve below.

Project Budget

Expense Type	Estimated Total Cost	Amount Requested	Actual Expenses (\$) at 6 months	Actual Expenses (\$) at 12 months	Brief Description of Expense
Personnel Salaries & Wages	\$0.00	\$0.00			n/a
Personnel Fringe Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00			n/a

Capital Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00			n/a
Materials & Supplies	\$301.00	\$301.00			Supplies and marketing
					materials for a total of 6 sixweek Ready to Rent classes.
Travel	\$579.00	\$579.00			Ready to Rent instructors travel to classes at a rate of .67 cents per mile.
Communications	\$0.00	\$0.00			n/a
Meetings (e.g., space rental, stipends, refreshments, childcare, transportation)	\$9,120.00	\$9,120.00			Meals for participants (60-76 individuals) 2 Instructor certifications for Ready to Rent classes
Other Direct Costs (please specify below)	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00			\$84,000 - barrier removal services (50 individuals) & \$6,000 - background checks (150 individuals)

Indirect Costs (capped at 15% of total project budget)	\$0.00	\$0.00			n/a
TOTAL BUDGET	100000	100000			0

If you indicated "Other Direct Costs" above...

Please list additional items and their associated costs.

The Housing Programs and Services (Housing Program) will allocate \$90,000 for "Other Direct Costs" within the budget. Of the budgeted amount, \$84,000 in funding will be designated for housing barrier removal services, which include security deposits, unpaid utility bills, moving costs, first and last month's rent, cleaning and storage fees, and other similar housing-related services. Another \$6,000 will be allocated for pre-tenancy background checks/screening services for individuals seeking housing. The housing barrier removal services will be available to a minimum of 50 individuals, and background screening services will be available to a minimum of 150 individuals. The target populations for the housing barrier removal and background screening services are individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), and mental health and/or substance use disorders, who are participants of the Ready to Rent classes.

The housing barrier removal and background screening services will bridge an existing gap in housingrelated service delivery within Marion County Health & Human Services (MCHHS). Specifically, the housing barrier removal funds will be used in conjunction with Housing Choice Vouchers and other rental assistance subsidies to ensure that the target population's needs are met. The background screening services will leverage an existing platform in place with the Marion County Housing Authority, creating a collaborative partnership to ensure that both pre-tenancy and tenancy-sustaining services are provided for underserved groups.

Furthermore, these initiatives will provide a holistic approach to housing stability by addressing both immediate financial barriers and long-term tenancy support. By coordinating with existing programs and resources, MCHHS aims to maximize the effectiveness of the allocated funds and enhance the overall impact on the community. The integration of these services will not only help secure housing but also promote sustained tenancy, contributing to the overall well-being and stability of the affected individuals and families.

Will any of the requested funds be used for capital investments?*

Note: Capital investments are identified as the purchasing of physical assets, such as real estate, land, or equipment to be used to assist long-term operations.

No

Has your project ever been awarded a WHC and/or PacificSource grant in the past?*

If yes, please indicate the following:

- Which grant?
- When?
- How much was awarded?

If no, please indicate "n/a."

n/a

Project Sustainability*

Are you currently seeking (or planning to seek) funds outside of the WHC to support your project?

No

If no...

In the event that WHC funding is not secured, how do you plan to sustain your project long-term?*

A priority of Marion County Health & Human Services (MCHHS) Housing Programs and Services (Housing Program) is to provide access to housing and housing-related services for underserved populations in Marion County. In the event that the Creating Equal Housing Opportunities Program (CEHOP) does not receive funding, the Housing Program will continue to focus on addressing the target population, which includes individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), substance use disorders (SUDs), and mental health disorders.

Achievement of project deliverables and outcomes will be facilitated through the establishment of collaborative partnerships with both internal and external agencies. This approach aims to bolster support for the initiative and expand the scope of service delivery within existing programs. A specific subset of the target population will be eligible to receive services through Medicaid's Health-Related Services and Health Related Social Needs initiatives. For other individuals, services may be provided through interdepartmental collaborations with divisions and programs that receive state funding dedicated to addressing substance use disorders (SUDs), homelessness, and other underserved populations.

By leveraging these collaborative efforts and strategically reallocating resources as needed, MCHHS aims to enhance access to essential housing and support services, thereby improving outcomes for vulnerable populations across Marion County. This comprehensive approach underscores MCHHS's commitment to addressing the multifaceted needs of the community and ensuring equitable access to critical resources.

Priority Criteria

Equity Driven*

Please describe how your project addresses barriers to health equity and improves conditions so that all MarionPolk residents can reach their full health potential.

The CEHOP will directly address inequities in housing access for individuals with I/DD, and mental health and/or substance use disorders designated as homeless or at risk of homelessness, by increasing access for these target populations to housing barrier removal services, tenant education courses, and fair and comprehensive background checks. The Community Impact Grants funding will enable the Housing Program to effectively address gaps in housing-related service delivery that frequently arise due to significant inequities in existing systems and approaches to housing, particularly impacting vulnerable target populations such as individuals with I/DD and SUD. The first objective is to provide housing barrier removal services aimed at eliminating administrative barriers that obstruct housing access and sustainability. This initiative encompasses providing financial assistance for application fees, security deposits, and covering other associated barrier removal costs. Accessible and safe house environments supported by barrier removal services promote independence and community integration for individuals with IDD or SUDs. The second objective is to offer six 6-week Ready to Rent tenant education courses for individuals. These courses aim to empower participants with essential knowledge and skills related to tenant rights, responsibilities, and navigating the housing market. By equipping individuals with this education, the program seeks to address housing-related inequities by reducing barriers to successful tenancy, promoting housing stability, and enhancing the overall well-being of participants. The final objective is to provide fair and comprehensive background checks along with a pre-tenancy service. This initiative aims to ensure equitable housing access by promoting transparency and fairness in applicant screenings, thereby reducing discriminatory practices and fostering a safer and more inclusive housing environment for all individuals involved.

The CEHOP aims to enhance housing access for individuals with I/DD, SUDs, and mental health disorders. Supported by Community Impact Grants, CEHOP will provide essential services including housing barrier removal, tenant education, and fair background checks to address systemic inequities and promote stability within our communities.

Cultural & Linguistic Responsiveness*

Please describe how your project engages and/or serves diverse communities. How do you ensure that these communities' cultural and linguistic needs are met?

In the MCHHS 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, a primary focus was driving systemic change to support a healthy community by providing equitable access to healthcare services, alongside other health and wellness initiatives. The MCHHS Housing Program, has supported these efforts by implementing housing-related initiatives and programs aimed at addressing various aspects of housing needs, affordability, and accessibility for diverse, underserved populations within Marion County. The Housing Program administers a variety of initiatives tailored to meet the needs of diverse and underserved

populations, including low-income families, minority ethnic and racial groups, immigrants and refugees, individuals with disabilities and behavioral health conditions, and a broad spectrum of age groups, encompassing seniors, youth, and adults. Additionally, the program serves individuals with diverse identities and orientations, survivors of domestic violence, and various other marginalized groups experiencing significant housing challenges.

The successful engagement of diverse underserved populations is due to a comprehensive approach comprised of extensive and structured collaboration with community stakeholders, a continued commitment to culturally responsive community outreach and engagement, implementing evidence-based practices and approaches in cultural competence training for employees, ensuring access to materials that are culturally relevant, responsive, and at appropriate literacy levels, and through ongoing adherence to regulatory standards for cultural responsiveness. Staff training initiatives focus on enhancing cultural competency, language proficiency, and understanding of the unique needs of diverse populations, thereby ensuring effective service delivery and client satisfaction.

Moreover, the Housing Program has established a broad range of collaborative partnerships with external

Community-Based Organizations, including the Salem and Marion County Housing Authorities, Catholic Community Services, Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, Church at the Park, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action, Helping Hands, and with several other social service-related entities. These collaborative partnerships are integral to advancing comprehensive housing initiatives for diverse populations, thereby confirming the Housing Program's dedication to sustainable solutions through community engagement and strategic cooperation.

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Alignment*

Does your project support any of the CHIP Priority Areas?

Please select all that apply.

Download the full CHIP here.

Behavioral Health Supports

Substance Use Disorder

Housing

Please describe how your project supports the CHIP Priority Areas selected above*

If your project does not support any of the CHIP priority areas, please indicate "n/a."

According to the 2021-2025 Marion-Polk Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), over 15% of the population reports living with a physical, mental, or emotional disability. Many of those individuals

have limited resources to obtain and/or sustain long-term, stable housing. According to the Department of Numbers, Marion County median rent has increased by 16.29%, which is 4.81% higher than the median gross rent for Oregon. Individuals who experience a behavioral health disorder, and/or intellectual and/or developmental disability can be dependent on social security income, which does not increase at the same rate as rent increases. Marion County's poverty rate is higher than the state average, particularly in Salem and Woodburn. According to the CHIP, 14.2% of people in Marion County were living below the federal poverty line. Poverty contributes to housing insecurity, which has a direct impact on an individual's ability to access quality behavioral health care. Statistically, individuals will have better health outcomes if they have long-term stable housing.

The CEHOP focuses on reducing barriers individuals and families face when obtaining safe and permanent housing. Ultimately, CEHOP will increase the number of people housed in Marion County, reduce the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, and reduce the risk of the consequences related to untreated substance use disorders and other behavioral health disorders. The CEHOP would also focus on reducing barriers for individuals who experience an intellectual and/developmental disability, making housing opportunities more equitable for this population.

CHIP Aims (A-C): Substance Use

Download the full CHIP here.

Substance Use (select all that apply)*

C) Promote environmental supports to relationship between substance use disorder recovery and health

If you selected "Other" above...

Please specify other goals related to substance use, or type N/A if your project does not address substance use.

Please describe how your project addresses substance use in alignment with the above.*

The National Coalition for the Homeless states that substance abuse is more prevalent in people who are homeless than in those who are not. In many instances, substance abuse is the result of the stress of homelessness, rather than the other way around. It can be more challenging for people who are homeless to stop using substances, because they may not have easy access to treatment, and often have smaller social support networks. For a significant minority, mental health and physical challenges

further complicate their ability to sustain stable housing. The Housing Program will provide housing barrier removal services, facilitated in collaboration with the MCHHS Addiction Treatment Services division. Individuals enrolled with a diagnosed substance use disorder, as a result of CEHOP, will be in a permanent and stable environment that will allow our qualified mental health associates to implement harm reduction strategies which will reduce recidivism.

CHIP Aims (D-F): Behavioral Health Supports

Download the full CHIP here.

Behavioral Health Support (select all that apply)*

E) Improve mental health resilience F)
Improve access to behavioral health care

If you selected "Other" above...

Please specify other goals related to behavioral health supports, or type N/A if your project does not address behavioral health supports.

Please describe how your project addresses behavioral health supports in alignment with the above.*

The Housing Program works in collaboration with the MCHHS Behavioral Health and Human Services Divisions, including Addiction Treatment Services, Adult Behavioral Health, Crisis Services, Youth & Family Services, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to offer people holistic, comprehensive services. In addition, Housing Programs has a staff of certified QMHA's and Peer Support Specialists who offer side-by-side support for those in need of additional and ongoing support. The Housing Programs focuses on longterm success by providing support beyond the initial success of connecting individuals experiencing homelessness with housing, which results in mental health resiliency and access to behavioral health care, ultimately reducing the need for emergency intervention.

CHIP Aims (G-I): Housing

Download the full CHIP here.

Housing (select all that apply)*

H) Reduce the risk of residents becoming homeless or returning to homelessness
I) Advocate for increasing the housing supply

If you selected "Other" above...

Please specify other goals related to housing, or type N/A if your project does not address housing.

Please describe how your project addresses housing in alignment with the above.*

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a best practice and proven strategy to successfully house people experiencing chronic homelessness. Members of these households often have complex needs including mental illness, substance use, and chronic physical difficulties alongside of their experience of long-term homelessness. The Housing Program combines three elements: supporting the acquisition of affordable housing, comprehensive pre-tenancy and tenancy support services, and project-based rental assistance. The Ready to Rent classes offered prepare individuals for maintaining housing and that education reduces their risk of lease violations that could ultimately lead to eviction. MCHHS housing navigation provides wrap around services to individuals enrolled, as well as maintaining positive working relationships with the participant's landlord/property manager.

Outcomes & Outputs

What measurable Outcomes (minimum of two, maximum of four) and supporting Outputs will your project achieve?

- Outcomes are the differences made because of a series of activities (i.e., outputs).
- Outputs are the activities you will do to achieve your project's desired outcome.

Please make sure your outcomes are *measurable*. Measurable outcomes are used to track your project's progress throughout the grant period. They are monitored using quantitative and/or qualitative approaches. Consider the following example of a measurable outcome: "By quarter 4, increase food access for migrant seasonal farmworkers by 30%." Learn more about measurable outcomes in this article here.

Outcome 1*

Increase tenant readiness through the delivery of six-week Ready to Rent classes for individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders, and Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities.

Output(s) that support Outcome 1*

These should be activities that you can measure and report on over the grant period. Please include numerical values (e.g., dates) where applicable.

The Housing Program will provide 6 six-week Ready to Rent classes for a minimum of 60 individuals/class graduates, and a maximum of 76 individuals, with mental health and/or substance use disorders and Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities. Sixty percent of individuals/class graduates will receive an approved rental application from a property manager for safe and permanent housing.

How will you track progress towards achieving Outcome 1?*

Examples of ways to track progress:

- Survey participants
- Count the number of events held
- Count the number of people served
- Interview people

The Ready to Rent classes will have registration and sign-in forms for class participants. Track the total number of graduates who apply for housing and count the number of approved rental applications

Outcome 2*

Enhance pre-tenancy services for individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders, and Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities through portfolio development that includes background checks.

Output(s) that support Outcome 2*

These should be activities that you can measure and report on over the grant period. Please include numerical values (e.g., dates) where applicable.

Provide 150 background checks for individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorders, and Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities, and decrease the number individuals receiving a denied application by property managers by 20 percent. Reduce the time it takes for individuals to get housed by two-weeks, and also reduce the number of repeat application fees by ten percent.

How will you track progress towards achieving Outcome 2?*

Examples of ways to track progress:

- Survey participants
- Count the number of events held
- Count the number of people served
- Interview people

The Housing Program will count the number of individuals receiving background checks, and also track the number of individuals who applied and either got approved or denied for a rental unit by a property manager. We will then compare that data to previously reports from MCHHS Housing Programs and Services to determine if the percentage of denied application has decreased by 20% and if the time frame to become housed has decreased by 10%.

Outcome 3

Reduce barriers to safe and permanent housing for individuals who are homeless with I/DD, and/or mental health or substance use disorders enrolled in the MCHHS Ready to Rent classes and housing navigation services.

Output(s) that support Outcome 3

These should be activities that you can measure and report on over the grant period. Please include numerical values (e.g., dates) where applicable.

A minimum of fifty individuals will receive barrier removal services.

How will you track progress towards achieving Outcome 3?

Examples of ways to track progress:

- Survey participants
- Count the number of events held
- Count the number of people served
- Interview people

The referring case manager will complete a barrier removal request form, and utilization will be tracked through the form.

Outcome 4

n/a

Output(s) that support Outcome 4

These should be activities that you can measure and report on over the grant period. Please include numerical values (e.g., dates) where applicable. n/a

How will you track progress towards achieving Outcome 4?

Examples of ways to track progress:

- Survey participants
- Count the number of events held
- Count the number of people served
- Interview people n/a

Will The Project...

Improve population health and/or healthcare quality?*

Yes

Provide any services that are covered by the Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid?*

Learn about Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid covered services here.

Yes

Provide Health-Related Services?*

Learn about Health-Related Services

here. Yes

Be based on documented best practice/evidence?*

Yes

Do any of the following (check all that apply)?*

- Improve health outcomes
- Address health disparities
- Prevent avoidable hospital readmissions
- Improve patient safety
- Promote and increase wellness
- Address social determinants of health & equity
- Promote economic stability
- Improve neighborhood/built environment

Services Covered by the Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid

Please list the covered services to be provided*

The CEHOP will offer housing barrier removal, tenant education, and pre-occupancy screening services that Medicaid may cover, and specific services may not be covered due to service nature, eligibility, time sensitivity, or non-reimbursable factors.

Health-Related Services

Please select all Health-Related Services that your project will provide*

- Care coordination, navigation or case management activities
- Education for health improvement/education support
- Housing services and supports
- Items for the living environment not covered by Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid
- Trauma-informed services and supports
- Other services not covered by Oregon Health Plan/Medicaid

If you selected "Other" above, please describe below.

The CEHOP may offer HRS-related barrier removal services, tenant education, and pre-occupancy screening services that Medicaid may not cover due to service nature, eligibility, time sensitivity, or non-reimbursable factors.

Housing and Homeless Service Types

Please select all housing and homeless service types your project will provide.*

System navigation

Care coordination

Permanent Supportive Housing

Other housing and homeless service types

If you selected "Other" above, please list additional service types below.

The CEHOP will provide housing barrier removal services, tenant education classes, and pre-occupancy screening for individuals who are homeless/at risk of homelessness with IDD, and/or mental health and substance use disorders.

Documented Best Practice/Evidence

Please provide a brief explanation of the best practice/evidence that supports your project.*

Include citations, where available.

Creating equal housing opportunities, particularly through Permanent Supportive Housing and barrier removal funding, is supported by best practices and evidence that emphasize comprehensive approaches to addressing chronic homelessness and promoting housing stability among vulnerable populations.

1. Affordable Housing: The Housing Program prioritizes the development of affordable housing options that are permanently available to households with extremely low incomes. The program has a full-time Housing Coordinator who works across Marion County to establish relationships with developers and landlords to help individuals find safe and supportive housing.

2. Tenancy Support: The Housing Program integrates robust support services tailored to the diverse needs of its residents. These services include case management, mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, healthcare access, and life skills training.
 3. Project-Based Rental Assistance: To further support affordability, the Housing Program includes short and long-term rental assistance. This financial support helps bridge the gap between tenants' income levels and the cost of housing.
 4. Pre-tenancy and Wraparound Services: The Housing Program initiatives include pre-tenancy services that assist individuals in navigating the transition into housing and securing necessary resources. Ongoing wraparound services ensure that residents receive continuous support and skill building to sustain their housing stability over time.
 5. Promoting Recovery, Health, and Wellness: Stable housing is critical for promoting recovery and improving health outcomes among vulnerable populations. By providing a stable living environment and access to supportive services, supportive housing programs empower individuals to focus on their well-being, leading to improved overall health and wellness outcomes for adults and children.
- In summary, housing support and barrier removal funding represent evidence-based, best practices that support the creation of equal housing opportunities. By combining affordable housing with comprehensive support services, these programs address the root causes of homelessness and empower individuals to achieve long-term housing stability, recovery, and overall well-being. This approach not only benefits individuals and families but also contributes to building inclusive communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.