



To convene, network, train, and empower Mayors

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of Region 12
From: The Oregon Mayors Association
Date: October 18, 2022
Re: Partnership Needed to Solve Statewide Homelessness Emergency

This past May, the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) formed a Taskforce on Homelessness. Twenty-five mayors, representing cities of all sizes from around the state, studied Oregon's homelessness crisis. And while the crisis may seem insurmountable, given that the symptoms and solutions look different between urban and rural communities and vary based on a city's size, geography and available service providers, local government leaders have developed a solution to Oregon's crisis of the unhoused.

The OMA Homelessness Taskforce's plan to humanely and timely address the homelessness crisis in Oregon is a partnership between the State of Oregon and its 241 cities. This partnership will allow for the establishment and expansion of local, community-based responses that provide immediate shelter, needed services, and secure safety for unhoused Oregonians. During the 2023 Legislative session, the OMA will *propose* two separate, yet parallel, budget proposals: (1) a budget package which provides direct allocation to cities for homelessness response and prevention services; and (2) a budget package that provides capital improvement funding for cities.

Direct Allocation

A direct allocation of funding from the state to each incorporated city in Oregon for cities to use in their homelessness response and prevention services is being proposed by the OMA.

- It is proposed that each city will be allocated funds in an amount equal to \$40 per resident, in accordance with the latest official population estimates from Portland State University.
- The proposal requires that in no instance will an incorporated city receive less than \$50,000 in direct funding.
- OMA's proposal provides cities the ability to elect to use the funds for their own homelessness response and prevention services, or to redirect their funds to community partners who are required to use the funds for homelessness response and prevention services.

OMA's proposal states that funds must be used for homelessness response and prevention services, which may include:

- Abatement/clean-up
- Environmental mitigation
- Affordable housing
- Capital construction or improvement costs related to homelessness or affordable housing measures
- Community resource officers
- Education and outreach
- Food bank assistance
- Shelter and/or transitional housing
- Hygiene stations
- Operation costs
- Outreach workers
- Prevention

With a \$50,000 guarantee for all cities, and a \$40.00 per resident multiplier in place, based on the April 19, 2022, PSU population estimates, the total amount requested would equal \$123,575,800.00 annually.

For cities located in Region 12, a \$40 per resident allocation equates to an annual allocation of the dollar amounts denoted below:

- Adrian - \$50,000
- Baker City - \$407,120
- Burns - \$109,800
- Canyon City - \$50,000
- Dayville - \$50,000
- Granite - \$50,000
- Greenhorn - \$50,000
- Haines - \$50,000
- Halfway - \$50,000
- Hines - \$66,440
- Huntington - \$50,000
- John Day - \$66,560
- Jordan Valley - \$50,000
- Long Creek - \$50,000
- Monument - \$50,000
- Mt. Vernon - \$50,000
- Nyssa - \$131,040
- Ontario - \$472,640
- Prairie City - \$50,000
- Richland - \$50,000
- Seneca - \$50,000
- Sumpter - \$50,000
- Unity - \$50,000
- Vale - \$76,560

Capital Allocation

In addition to the direct allocations, the Taskforce's proposal requires a meaningful allocation from the State for coordinated capital construction investments for specific shelter and transitional housing projects, statewide. It is expected that a final dollar amount for needed capital construction investments will equal between \$125 to \$175 million. The OMA is seeking information from Oregon cities about any needs they may have for capital construction investments from the state in their local responses to addressing the homelessness crisis.

Request for Support

The OMA Homelessness Taskforce and the OMA Board of Directors seek the support of Oregon's 241 cities for the above-described proposal. In an effort to present the legislature and Oregon's next governor with a truly coordinated and collaborative proposal, the OMA hopes to submit its legislative request with as many city partners as possible.

To explain the statewide nature of this crisis, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), in partnership with the OMA, has secured the services of a communications specialist to work directly with cities interested in supporting the OMA proposal. The communications specialist will work directly with interested cities to develop a one-page document that outlines a city's unique experience with homelessness, and how the funding proposed by the OMA would help the city respond to, or even prevent, homelessness in their community. Work performed by the consultant in support of the OMA proposal will be paid for by the LOC.

Oregon's mayors are leading the on-the-ground response on homelessness, and the prevention thereof, but cities cannot do so alone and need joint leadership from state government to support cities and our county partners. The OMA Taskforce has called on Oregon's next governor and legislature to fund the services and housing needed to make an impact on Oregon's homelessness crisis; the support of Region 12 cities will go a long way to expressing the importance and impact of this proposal.

If your city is interested in supporting the proposal, please contact any of the LOC staff persons listed below as soon as possible, ideally cities wishing to provide support to the proposal should make contact no later than November 4th.

- Patty Mulvihill, LOC Interim Executive Director – pmulvihill@orcities.org
- Ariel Nelson, LOC Housing & Land Use Lobbyist – anelson@orcities.org
- Angela Speier, Projects & Affiliates Manager – aspeier@orcities.org