

HB 4123 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Housing

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/9, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide grants to local governments and nonprofit corporations to create a coordinated homeless response system, including a central office and point of contact, representative advisory board, and plans for coordination with any local continuum of care organization. Requires grant monies be used for staffing, communication, community engagement, policy development and technical assistance efforts. Requires grantee to adopt, within one year, a five-year strategic plan addressing funding needs and goals for: increasing or streamlining resources for people who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness in the service area; incorporating national best practices, eliminating racial disparities within homeless services, and creating pathways to permanent and supportive housing. Requires grantees to report to the Housing Stability Council within Oregon Housing and Community Services, and one or more interim committees of the legislative assembly no later than November 15, 2023 and September 15, 2024 on the grantee's adopted plan and related opportunities, challenges, and needs related to regional coordinated homeless services and planning. Directs each coordinated homeless response system to develop partnerships with certain local and regional stakeholders, including: homeless and housing service providers; legal aid; law enforcement; and other educational and social service providers. For the biennium beginning ending June 30, 2023, appropriates \$8 million in General Fund monies to DAS for the establishment of coordinated homeless response systems by the following jurisdictions, named partners and other parties to each grant agreement: \$1 million to Benton County; \$1 million to Coos County; \$1 to Deschutes County; \$1 million to Lincoln County; \$1 million to the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council; \$1 million to Polk County; \$1 million to Tillamook County; and \$1 million to Umatilla County. Repeals provisions of Act January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increased need for homeless services in rural communities
- Cross-jurisdictional partnerships promoted by pilot program
- Cost-sharing among partners to sustain homeless services beyond two-year grant period

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Expands named Deschutes County coordinated homeless response system partners to include the City of La Pine and the City of Sisters.

BACKGROUND:

According to data provided by the National Council on Homelessness (2020), Oregon's rate of homeless individuals is one of the highest in the nation, with 15,876 individuals who are homeless on a given night, or an average of 37.9 per 10,000 people in the general population. According to Oregon Housing and Community Services, the number of unsheltered homeless individuals has increased by 37 percent since 2015, and the department's 2019 Statewide Shelter Study calculated a shortfall of 5,800 emergency shelter beds for individuals and families. The health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as individuals and families displaced by the 2020 wildfires, has amplified the need for safe shelter, housing, and supportive services to meet the needs of a growing homeless population.

HB 4123 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 4123 directs the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to provide a two-year, \$1 Million grant to specified local governments and nonprofit corporations for the creation of a coordinated homeless response system. The measure designates the use of grant moneys for program establishment, staffing and outreach, and it requires each grantee to adopt a five-year strategic plan and report to the Oregon Housing Stability Council and the Legislative Assembly by November 15, 2023 and September 15, 2024.