

A-Engrossed
House Bill 4123

Ordered by the House February 14
Including House Amendments dated February 14

Sponsored by Representatives KROPF, WILLIAMS, Senator PATTERSON, Representatives EVANS, GOMBERG, HOY, SMITH G, ZIKA, Senators ANDERSON, GELSER BLOUIN, HANSELL, KNOPP, THOMSEN; Representatives DEXTER, GRAYBER, LEVY, MARSH, NOSSE, REYNOLDS, WEBER (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services to provide grants for certain coordinated homeless response systems. Requires response systems to report annually to Housing and Community Services Department, Oregon Housing Stability Council and interim committee of Legislative Assembly.

Sunset January 2, 2025.

Appropriates moneys for specified response system grants.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to coordinated homeless response systems; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

9 Whereas the lack of housing affordability and availability in Oregon cannot be addressed with-
10 out cross-jurisdictional collaboration; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 (e) The establishment of a centralized point of contact for the office.
- 2 (2) Grants provided under this section shall be used by the coordinated homeless re-
- 3 sponse system to:
- 4 (a) Hire necessary staff for the office;
- 5 (b) Support coordinated communications and public engagement;
- 6 (c) Support community outreach and policy development, including stipends for people
- 7 with current or recent lived experience of homelessness;
- 8 (d) Acquire technical assistance and capacity building, including contracting with con-
- 9 sultants; and
- 10 (e) Pay for other expenses reasonably necessary to meet the requirements under this
- 11 section.
- 12 (3) Within one year of receiving a grant under this section, a coordinated homeless re-
- 13 sponse system, through the advisory board or each member government to the agreement,
- 14 shall adopt a five-year strategic plan that will identify and set goals for addressing:
- 15 (a) Funding to support the ongoing operations of the coordinated homeless response
- 16 system;
- 17 (b) Increasing or streamlining resources and services to people at risk of or experiencing
- 18 homelessness within the participating cities and counties;
- 19 (c) Incorporating national best practices for ending homelessness;
- 20 (d) Eliminating racial disparities within homeless services within the service area; and
- 21 (e) Creating pathways to permanent and supportive housing that is affordable to local
- 22 populations experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- 23 (4) No later than November 15, 2023, and September 15, 2024, each coordinated homeless
- 24 response system shall provide a report to the Housing and Community Services Department,
- 25 Oregon Housing Stability Council and one or more appropriate interim committees of the
- 26 Legislative Assembly in the manner provided in ORS 192.245 on:
- 27 (a) The goals adopted in the five-year strategic plan and the progress made in imple-
- 28 menting the plan;
- 29 (b) Other changes in homelessness services, ordinances of member governments relating
- 30 to homelessness and partnerships or programs established that are specifically related to
- 31 member government actions arising out of the agreement; and
- 32 (c) Identified challenges and opportunities relating to:
- 33 (A) Regional coordination of homelessness services and planning;
- 34 (B) Needs for technical assistance regarding program development or other programs
- 35 from the Housing and Community Services Department; and
- 36 (C) Addressing racial disparities through partnerships with culturally specific and re-
- 37 sponsive organizations serving populations overrepresented in experiencing homelessness,
- 38 including Black, Indigenous, People of Color, federally recognized tribes and tribal members
- 39 and outreach and engagement with these populations.
- 40 (5) In performing tasks under this section, a coordinated homeless response system shall
- 41 coordinate with and develop partnerships with local and regional stakeholders, including, but
- 42 not limited to:
- 43 (a) Advocates for people experiencing homelessness and for people with lived experience
- 44 of homelessness;
- 45 (b) Community action agencies;

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

18 (o) The Housing and Community Services Department.

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

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

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

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

32 (1) \$1,000,000 to Benton County for a response system consisting of Benton County, the
33 City of Corvallis and any other parties to the agreement forming the response system.

34 (2) \$1,000,000 to Coos County for a response system consisting of Coos County, the City
35 of Coos Bay, the City of North Bend and any other parties to the agreement forming the
36 response system.

37 (3) \$1,000,000 to Deschutes County for a response system consisting of Deschutes County,
38 the City of Bend, the City of La Pine, the City of Redmond and the City of Sisters.

39 (4) \$1,000,000 to Lincoln County for a response system consisting of Lincoln County, the
40 City of Lincoln City, the City of Newport, the City of Toledo and any other parties to the
41 agreement forming the response system.

42 (5) \$1,000,000 to the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council for a response system
43 consisting of the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council, Hood River County, Sherman
44 County, Wasco County, the City of The Dalles, the City of Hood River and any other parties
45 to the agreement forming the response system.

