



MEDFORD

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

TO: Senate Housing and Development Committee

FROM: Kelly Madding, Deputy City Manager

RE: SB 1530

DATE: February 13, 2024

POSITION: Support

The City of Medford supports SB 1530 and urges your continued support for the shelters that local governments have worked to establish along with the state. Nothing is more important than investing in the programs and promises that we have made together to our communities. The City is asking you to continue to add to the \$19 million in funding the City has contributed to this issue in the last three years.

Located in Jackson County, the City of Medford has a population of 90,887 and serves as the County seat. Medford is the demographic and economic hub of the southern Oregon region. With the continued growth in healthcare, retail and manufacturing along with retirees discovering this great region, the City anticipates a continued growth rate of 1.8% per year. Medford is currently the 4th largest metro area in Oregon and is known throughout the country and the world for its pear orchards, and is home to Harry & David, one of the world's largest shippers of fruit and food gifts.

Our dedication to partnering with OHCS, other cities and the state to resolve the state's homelessness problem cannot be denied. And we must collectively carry-on. Funding one time bed development must now be set aside to pay for operations and maintenance of that we have already begun – the success that we have already achieved. SB 1530 allows us to continue that work.

The City of Medford needs \$3.5 million per year to sustain the progress we have made.

Since Governor Kotek's Executive Order (EO-23-O2), the City of Medford has:

- Added 60 new shelter beds
- Approximately 30% of those in the emergency shelters in Medford go on to other housing
- The Jackson County Continuum of Care accomplished:
 - 435 evictions prevented
 - 217 households rapidly rehoused

CITY OF MEDFORD

SHELTER PROGRAM



The City of Medford has dedicated millions of discretionary and one-time funds to support individuals experiencing homelessness.


Now the City needs \$3.5 million annually to maintain operations and meet rising demands for shelters and supportive services. The State must help us fund these facilities or they will be forced to close.

Homelessness is at a crisis level in Medford. Since July 2019, the City of Medford has committed **\$28 million on infrastructure and services for houseless individuals**. Funding was used to support property acquisition and development of the Navigation Center, Urban Campground and Project Turnkey site (253 beds).

Despite these efforts, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Medford has increased **55 percent** since 2021.

At no time did City officials agree to sustainably fund ongoing operations. **Without state funding our service providers will be forced to close their doors.**

Should the City be left no choice but to attempt fund the homeless services that have been recently stood-up with State and Federal funds, general City services will suffer, such as public safety, planning and municipal court.

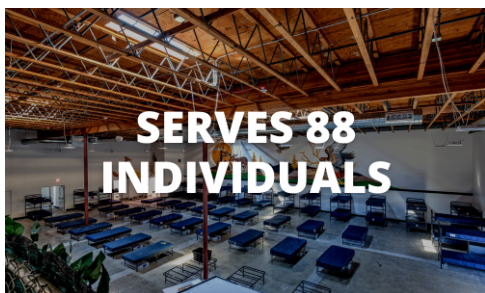


206 beds each night are made available through the City's support: Navigation Center and Urban Campground

CITY INVESTMENT

In the last three years, the City has committed **\$4.1 million of discretionary funding** to support emergency shelters, transitional housing initiatives, and community outreach services dedicated to helping individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

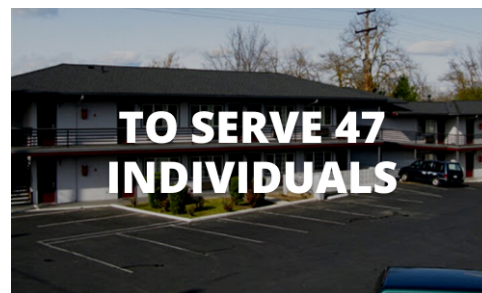
Additionally, the City has allocated **\$15.4 million** of one-time American Rescue Plan Act funds and Community Development Block Grant funds to support the below initiatives.



NAVIGATION CENTER



URBAN CAMPGROUND



PROJECT TURNKEY