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Human Services Fund PRIORITIES

For Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013

Approved by the

Lane County Human Services Commission

July 19, 2010



Human Services Commission
LANE COUNTY • EUGENE • SPRINGFIELD

PRIORITIES FOR THE HUMAN SERVICES FUND (HSF)

Approved by the Human Services Commission

July 1, 2011-June 30, 2013

Purpose:

This document presents the Human Services Commissions priorities for the Human Services Fund for the two-year funding cycle beginning in the 2011-13 biennium. These recommendations were approved by the Human Services Commission on July 19, 2010. The recommendations were developed by the Community Action Advisory Committee (CAAC), the citizen group established by the Lane County Board of Commissioners and charged with the responsibility to recommend Human Services Fund priorities based on community and staff assessments of the human service and community development needs within the County. Members of the CAAC are appointed by the County Commissioners and represent various public and private citizen interests within the County.

The purpose of the Human Services Fund is to provide public support for private community-based human-service programs through an orderly process that is responsive to changing community needs.

Focus:

For the next two-year funding cycle, biennium 2011-13, the HSC recommends that the funding priorities be based on the changing needs of County residents, the fluid state of the economy, the growing diversity, the aging population, and increasing capacity to collaborate within the service providing community. Particularly, the HSC notes the significant and steady rise in demands for emergency services and the sustainability challenges facing nonprofits in the current economy.

As in the past, the HSC will continue to support direct human service activities, organizational development, professional development, public education, and networking.

However, the process to allocate the Human Services Fund is changing.

The New Allocations Process offers the inclusion of a broader community of non-profit proposals. It also offers more flexibility in the ways in which funds can be used and encourages new program ideas based the most current best practices.

The New Allocation Process will:

- **Take into account county-wide geographic distribution of services**
- **Fund services by funding priorities**
- **Focus on outcomes that are measureable and long-lasting to advance the goals developed through the Human Services Plan**
- **Select proposals from providers that meet the goals identified in the Human Services Plan rather than solicit Letters of Intent (LOI) for prior year contract services**

The Human Services Fund will respond to and support the regional and local government's initiatives to:

- Prevent and end homelessness within ten years;

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- Preserve and increase the availability of services that stabilize low income residents in safe affordable housing;
- Reduce the incidence and consequences of youth homelessness and involvement in crime;
- Address the incidence and consequences of domestic violence and child abuse;
- Meet the special housing and human service needs of veterans, seniors and persons with disabilities;
- Enhance efforts to prevent conditions or behaviors that undermine health, stability, growth and development or independent living in the community.

These recommendations continue to support the basic needs for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and others who need immediate intervention, treatment and support. By implementing the Human Services Plan, we move toward, as resources allow, prioritizing evidence based prevention programs.

By implementing the Human Services Plan, programs to be funded by the Human Services Fund are accountable to provide measurable outcomes for safety, dignity, and opportunity to those in need in Lane County and, thereby,

- Improve the overall quality of community life by supporting services that:
 - Prevent or reduce homelessness, hunger, child abuse, and domestic violence
 - Prevent or reduce criminal justice involvement
 - Prevent or reduce demand for emergency medical services
 - Increase self-sufficiency of individuals and families in need
- Help at-risk children and youth avoid negative outcomes such as:
 - Poor health, poor academic performance, and failure to complete high school.
 - Juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy.
 - Violent crime, including child abuse and neglect.
- Help the community:
 - Identify and expand the most effective means of promoting healthy development for families, children, and youth most at-risk of dependency and criminal justice involvement in the long run.
- Improve access, coordination and effectiveness:
 - Of health, human services and housing programs, and public benefits for veterans, seniors, individuals, and families in need.

The children, families, and people to be served by HSC funding in most cases come from low income households. More specific priority populations include:

- Families, children, and youth who are at-risk for homelessness or involvement with child welfare, behavioral health or the justice systems.
- Individuals and families who experience homelessness, some of whom are frequent users of hospital emergency departments, have frequent encounters with law enforcement, courts, and repeated stays in jail or institutions.
- Individuals who have been recently released from jail or are under community supervision and who are striving to maintain their family or re-unite with their children.
- Veterans, military personnel, and their families
- Seniors who are at-risk of institutionalization without community support.

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Priorities

Four Funding Priority Outcome Areas were identified through the human services planning process which also yielded information about the relative priority of these areas. This information was used to identify resource allocation opportunities aligned with community priorities, as discussed under the policy options section below. The four Priority Areas are as follows:

PRIORITY	OUTCOME STATEMENT	TARGET FUNDING PERCENTAGE
1. Meeting Community Basic Needs <i>Crisis Intervention</i>	Individuals, families or communities in crisis get help to overcome short-term problems (generally not more than three months) and quickly move back to independence if appropriate.	--%
2. Increasing Self-Reliance <i>Self-Sufficiency</i>	Families and individuals get comprehensive services addressing many facets and needs so that they can attain self-sufficiency over a period of three months to two years.	--%
3. Building A Safer Community <i>Prevention</i>	Families and individuals get help to remain safe and healthy and have the tools and resources to prevent future harm. Communities increase their ability to develop and provide preventive services.	--%
4. Improving Access to Services <i>Independent Living</i>	People and communities that have continuing and long-term needs achieve or maintain healthy, safe and independent lives to the maximum extent possible.	--%

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Background:

Since 1972, Lane County and the cities of Eugene and Springfield have provided approximately \$8 million annually in local, state and federal resources through the HSC to human service programs managed by non-profit and faith-based organizations county-wide. Through the HSC, the funds are allocated among applicants in accordance with the priorities set by the Human Services Commission. An open procurement competition is conducted by the County using citizen volunteer review panels.

The HSC's policies help inform how the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County respond to local needs. They determine the type and level of programs and funding provided to community based organizations and to residents, the service delivery methodologies employed to ensure efficient and effective services, who should be served, and the collaborative nature of service provision.

Throughout its history, the HSC has adjusted priorities and contracting requirements to meet changing needs and to recognize the changing nature of community-based providers. At the same time, funding sources have increased reporting requirements particularly with regard to outcome measures, the need to demonstrate clients' progress toward self-sufficiency. The growing need for collaboration among human service providers ensures that multiple services are easily accessed by those in need.

Human Services Plan Guidance:

On October 19th, 2009, the Human Services Plan for Lane County, a year long effort to help develop a 10-year long-range blueprint for human services, was presented to the Human Services Commission (HSC) by Program and Policy Insight, LLC (PPI). The plan is intended to serve as a strategic policy guide for HSC and to provide guidance for jurisdictional decision making regarding human services funding. Priorities identified in the planning process will guide the distribution of operating funds for human service programs offered by community-based non-profit and public agencies, on behalf of Lane County and the Cities of Eugene and Springfield.

The planning process had two primary goals: 1) to provide an assessment of human service priorities based on targeted community and stakeholder input; and 2) to provide a strategic framework for funding decisions in a variety of funding climates. The plan envisions the impact that varying levels (four options) of financial support would have on what can be accomplished to prevent, intervene and treat the root causes of social problems for people in Lane County.

The 2011-13 biennium HSC priorities are based on the Human Services Plan's review and analysis of information between January 2008 and December 2009 regarding human service needs and conditions in the County obtained from a variety of sources. These sources include:

- **Review of existing data** Reviewed existing economic and service indicators, planning instruments, needs assessments and other key documents that inform local policy, program and funding decisions to describe the context in Lane County.

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- **Stakeholder interviews** Interviewed key public and private community stakeholders for their input on the economic and political climate and its impact on the development and delivery of human services. Nine community stakeholders were interviewed.
- **Focus groups/Community Engagement Forums** Conducted five focus groups representing over 70 respondents) with a diverse range of stakeholders, including youth, seniors and persons with disabilities, families, singles and homeless individuals, and Latino individuals. Conducted four community engagement forums in Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove and Florence to provide information about the planning process and invite input.
- **Community survey** Developed and administered a stakeholder survey administered online and in writing via Project Homeless Connect, community forums, and project focus groups; 476 surveys were collected.

In the last decade, Lane County has undergone significant changes both in demographics and service delivery needs. Policy and investment scenarios were developed in response to these changes and have been reviewed by staff, an advisory committee with expertise in the human service field, and the human services provider network.

The Human Services Fund priorities in the Plan are based on the changing needs of County residents, and note the fluid state of the economy, the growing diversity, the aging population, and the increasing capacity to collaborate within the service providing community.

The options incorporated in the Human Services Plan include and coordinate with other local policy goals outlined in the following documents:

- Lane County 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness
- Eugene-Springfield Consolidated Plan
- City of Eugene Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Homelessness Recommendations
- United Way 2009 Community Assessment
- Lane County's Six-year Priorities for Planning Implementation and Measuring Results For Children, Youth and Families

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A detailed description of the specific program areas to be funded by outcome areas follows:

1. Meeting Community Basic Needs (Crisis Intervention)

Description: Ensure that people facing hardship have access to resources to help meet immediate or basic needs.

Outcome: Individuals, families, or communities in crisis get help to overcome short-term problems (generally not more than three months) and quickly move back to independence if appropriate.

Services in this category assist individuals and families that need (due to personal or social crises such as those related to the economic downturn, a health crisis, or temporary disability) short-term or one-time assistance with basic needs (food, shelter, transportation, counseling) to avoid falling more deeply into dependency on public support. In addition, providers of these programs conduct initial assessments or referrals to identify longer-term or chronic issues and steer recipients toward resources to address these more complex problems. These services would not cover ongoing services to address more chronic conditions such as illiteracy, substance abuse, long-term poverty, ongoing illness, or permanent disability.

Target Funding: --%

- **Emergency Shelter, Food and Other Assistance:**
Emergency shelter, food, utility, prescription and other assistance include an array of services which are intended to support people with the basic necessities of life during a time of crisis.
- **Care Coordination and Access to Integrated Health Services:**
Coordinated case management, outreach, and integrated care for targeted at-risk and chronically homeless with PTSD, mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders who are homeless who utilize multiple services. Includes access to medical, oral and behavioral health services.
- **Transportation:**
Transportation services are intended to enable transportation disadvantaged persons to access education, work, medical treatments, and other community resources.

2. Increasing Self-Reliance (Self-Sufficiency)

Description: Help individuals break out of the cycle of poverty by improving access to housing and services and removing barriers to employment while providing children, youth, and families with community resources needed to support their positive development, including early intervention and prevention services.

Outcome: Families and individuals get comprehensive services addressing many facets and needs so that they can attain self-sufficiency over a period of three months to two years.

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Many social problems are complex in origin, and require layered interventions. Sophisticated assessment, coordination, collaboration, and case management are generally required to provide these services effectively. The individuals and families served have long-term, but not permanent problems. Services in this category may link to prevention services, but should not be confused with them.

Target Funding: --%

- **Housing:**

Housing includes a continuum of homeless prevention and re-housing, rental assistance, transitional and service-enriched permanent housing and supportive services which are intended to provide a stable and safe living environment for individuals and families and to improve their lives.

- **Child & Youth Development:**

Early Childhood and youth development includes programs for at-risk and homeless youth which are intended to promote and build self-confidence, academic success, positive family and peer relationships, self esteem, social development, social awareness, and leadership skills. It also includes childcare, therapeutic preschools, and other services for at-risk children age zero through elementary school age which are intended to enable them to develop to their fullest physical, mental, emotional, and social potential.

- **Employment Services:**

Employment services include services which are intended to assist at-risk and homeless youth and adults to obtain and maintain employment.

- **Financial, Legal Counseling and Education:**

Financial, legal counseling and education services are intended to increase financial literacy and enable individuals to access and utilize the legal system to lift barriers that prevent stability.

3. Building a Safer Community (Prevention)

Description: Provide resources and services that prevent and reduce violence, crime, and neglect in our community, while allowing individuals to improve their mental and physical health and overall well-being.

Outcome: Families and individuals get help to remain safe and healthy and have the tools and resources to prevent future harm. Communities increase their ability to develop and provide preventive services.

Target Funding: --%

- **Prevention and Intervention from Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation:**

Prevention and intervention from abuse, neglect, and exploitation includes services for children and adults who are at-risk of, or have been victims of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. These services are intended to prevent abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation

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and provide treatment for the physical and emotional effects of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation.

- **Parenting Education and Skill Development:**

Parenting education and skill development includes services which are intended to promote positive family relationships, improve parent/child and family communications, and increase parents' involvement with their children's school and social environment.

4. Improving Access to Services (Independent Living)

Description: Access to human services includes services which are intended to enhance the ability of agencies to meet community needs or enable individuals to learn about and gain access to available public benefits and community resources to meet their needs.

Outcome: People and communities that have continuing and long-term needs achieve or maintain healthy, safe, and independent lives to the maximum extent possible.

Services in this category meet the needs of people who, because of age or other permanent conditions, will need ongoing help. It may be difficult to initially assess whether an individual or family needs services from this category, as compared to another category. Indeed, those receiving ongoing services may also benefit from preventive programs, require emergency services, or move from dependence to self-sufficiency in some areas of their lives while needing ongoing assistance in others.

Target Funding: --%

- **Access to Public Benefits for Disabled, Seniors, Veterans and Families**

Assistance for individuals and their families that are eligible for mainstream public benefits populations including services to receive all disability, health care, educational welfare, and pensions, and services provided by Federal and State law. Services assist seniors, people with disabilities, veterans and their families enabling them to improve their health and welfare and to remain independent and self-sufficient.

- **Information and Referral:**

Information and referral services include services which are intended to enable individuals to be aware of and access community resources to meet their needs.