



Memorandum Date: May 3, 2023

Order Date: May 9, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration

PRESENTED BY: Steve Mokrohisky, County Administrator
Eve Gray, Health & Human Services
Kate Budd, Human Services Division Manager
Patence Winningham, Emergency Program Manager

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: In the Matter of Declaring a Local Emergency Due to Homelessness and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Execute Contracts and Distribute Funds.

I. MOTION

Move to approve the Order Declaring a Local Emergency Due to Homelessness and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Execute Contracts and Distribute Funds.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to declare a local emergency due to homelessness, delegating authority to the County Administrator to execute and sign all required documents to expedite the process to distribute the previously approved Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) funding to Community Based Organizations and Community Partners, in order to achieve the action items outlined in the Lane County MAC Group to Implement and Refine the Community Plan.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

On January 10, 2023, Oregon's Governor issued Executive order No. 23-02 Declaring State of Emergency due to Homelessness and Executive Order No. 23-03 Directing State Agencies to Prioritize Reducing Homelessness.

The goals of the Executive Orders are:

- Prevent 8,750 households from becoming homeless
- Add 600 low-barrier shelter beds in emergency areas
- Re-house at least 1,200 unsheltered households in emergency areas

Lane County will be expected to meet the following target numbers, though there may be flexibility between interventions.

Identified target numbers by intervention:

- Prevention: 1,578-1,853 Households
- Emergency Shelter: 111-124 Beds
- Rehousing from Unsheltered Homelessness: 223-247 Households

Per Order 23-03-07-04, on March 10, 2023 the Board approved the acceptance of up to \$30 Million from OHCS in response to the Governor's Emergency Declaration due to homelessness; and delegated the authority to the County Administrator to execute and sign all required documents to accept the funding from the State.

B. Policy Issues and Board Goals

Prevention assistance, emergency shelter and re-housing are all best practice models utilized to stabilize those at-risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness. With each model, a community based supportive services component is integrated with shelter or housing to increase stability and quality of life. This includes connecting households with mental health services, primary health care, alcohol and drug services, case management, DHS benefits, and other barrier reducing supports.

C. Board Goals

The Lane County Strategic Plan calls for addressing the community's need for additional emergency housing and addressing homelessness. Specifically, the Plan calls for increasing housing options for residents to reduce the incidence of homelessness and increase affordability. Strategies include convening, sponsoring, and implementing a collaborative multi-jurisdictional affordable housing action plan, identifying and implementing programs for supportive housing, short-term transitional housing, and long-term and permanent solutions. Increasing access to prevention and treatment services and developing programs to support wrap around

services.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The allocation of funds through the Executive Order is time limited through January 31, 2024.

Lane Manual 20 contains the County's contracting and purchasing policies which provide authorization to the County Administrator for spending up to \$150,000. Additional delegated authority can be granted to the Administrator through Board Order.

Oregon Budget Law ORS 294.481 allows the County to expend monies to respond to public emergencies.

E. Health Implications

Housing can have an impact on both physiological and psychological health. Poor housing can lead to increased rates of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, infestations such as lice and bed bugs, and infections such as fungus. Poor living conditions can also lead to serious respiratory conditions like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and increase the likelihood of physical injury, particularly for older adults and people with a disability.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the declaration of a local emergency.
2. Do not approve the declaration of a local emergency and request staff propose other options.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Option 1.

V. ATTACHMENTS

The proposed Board Order is attached.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 23-05-09-03

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A
LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO
HOMELESSNESS AND DELEGATING
AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE
CONTRACTS AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Governor of Oregon has declared an Emergency by Executive Order 23-02; and

WHEREAS, the number of households experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Lane County more than doubled from 2017 to 2022; and

WHEREAS, ORS 401.305 provides authority for Lane County to act as an emergency management agency and includes authority to establish policies and protocols for defining and directing responsibilities during time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 10th, 2023 per Order 23-03-07-04, the Board approved the acceptance of up to \$30 Million from OHCS in response to the Governors Emergency Declaration due to homelessness and delegated the authority to the County Administrator to execute and sign all required documents to accept the funding from the State; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has enacted a local ordinance (County Code Chapter 20.015) pursuant to the authority granted by ORS Chapter 401, that provides for executive responsibility in times of emergency and specifically delegates authority to declare a state of emergency to the County Chair, Vice-Chair (if Chair is unavailable), Remaining Board Member(s) (if Vice Chair is unavailable) and County Administrator or designee (if Remaining Board Member(s) is unavailable); and

WHEREAS, Lane County Code Chapter 20 and ORS 401.309 further authorize certain actions be taken during a state of emergency when necessary for public safety or for the efficient conduct of activities to minimize or mitigate the effects of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, ORS 279B.060 authorizes the head of a contracting agency to make or authorize others to make emergency procurements of goods or services during an emergency without strict compliance with procurement regulations or procedures; and

WHEREAS, the local Emergency remains in effect in alignment with the State of Emergency, January 10th, 2024 the Local Emergency Declaration;

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO HOMELESSNESS
AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE
CONTRACTS AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDS

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. A local state of emergency is declared due to homelessness, as described in the Oregon Governor’s Executive Order EO 23-02 (the “Homelessness Emergency”).
2. Authority is delegated to the County Administrator as authorized under Lane Code Chapter 20, to allocate up to \$20,000,000 in responding to the Homelessness Emergency, and to execute all documents necessary to achieve the action items outlined in the approved Lane County MAC Group to Implement and Refine the Community Plan.
3. The County Administrator is delegated authority to take such actions as are necessary for the prompt and efficient expenditure of the \$20,000,000 authorized herein for purposes related to the Homelessness Emergency in compliance with the Oregon Public Contracting Code, including source selection and execution of contracts. This authority includes awarding and execution of contracts of any amount.
4. Utilization of all available resources of the County as may be reasonably necessary to support execution of the “All IN” Action Plan Objectives.
5. This Declaration of local state of emergency shall remain in effect until January 10th, 2024, unless extended or terminated earlier by action of the Board of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 6th day of May, 2023

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO HOMELESSNESS
AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE
CONTRACTS AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDS