



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: March 5, 2025

Order Date: March 18, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: County Administration

PRESENTED BY: Matt McRae, Disaster Recovery Manager

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/ In the Matter of Accepting Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Funds from Oregon Housing and Community Services in the Amount up to \$7,926,980 for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER) for Holiday Farm Fire Recovery and Delegating Authority to the County Administrator to Execute the Agreement.

I. MOTION

Move to Accept Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds from Oregon Housing and Community Services in the amount up to \$7,926,980 for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER) for Holiday Farm Fire Recovery and delegating authority to the County Administrator to execute the associated agreement.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is asked to accept up to \$7,926,980 for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER) projects supporting the recovery of communities within the McKenzie River Valley following the Holiday Farm Fire.

These funds are a portion of the \$422,286,000 in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds awarded to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for recovery from the 2020 Labor Day wildfires.

BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

In September 2020, the Holiday Farm Fire burned over 170,000 acres in the McKenzie River Valley, claiming one life and destroying 517 homes along with dozens of other structures. Since the fire, the Board has received regular updates from staff on Holiday Farm Fire recovery and the Board has accepted funds for recovery derived from several state and federal sources.

State Recovery Funding:

During the 2021 Legislative session, the legislature appropriated \$150 million statewide to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) for 2020 Labor Day fire recovery. \$5,020,547.41 was allocated to Lane County for Holiday Farm Fire Recovery. On February 28, 2023, the Lane County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with OHCS in the amount of \$4,120,547.4. An additional \$900,000 was committed to Lane County and approved by the Board on April 16, 2024. These funds will be fully expended by the end of June 2025, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement between OHCS and Lane County.

Federal Recovery Funding:

In February 2022, OHCS was awarded \$422,286,000 of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Funds to support statewide recovery from the 2020 Labor Day Fires. These are funds provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In September 2022, HUD approved the ReOregon “Action Plan”, a document that explains how OHCS will use \$422,286,000 to support recovery statewide.

Planning, Infrastructure, and Economic Revitalization Funds:

In early 2023, Lane County Community Resilience and Recovery staff convened community stakeholders, non-profits, and public agency staff to discuss existing funding needs, identify additional wildfire recovery projects, and consider funding opportunities.

In early 2023, at the request of OHCS, Lane County convened a McKenzie Valley PIER Selection Committee that would meet the group composition requirements and process requirements established by OHCS. Lane County staff engaged the existing stakeholder group (described above) and invited a small number of additional participants to better reflect community demographics and to meet OHCS requirements.

This PIER Selection Committee was formalized to meet State requirements and began meeting in June of 2023. As part of the PIER Selection Committee process, Lane County staff published a formal request for project proposals. PIER Selection Committee members discussed and evaluated projects and proposed funding priorities.

Selection Committee meetings were publicly-noticed and included opportunities for community feedback and comments. The Committee has selected six priority projects (listed below) to be forwarded to OHCS for final eligibility review and project approval.

Project Name	Project Lead	Planned Budget
Business Recovery Fund	Community Lending Works	\$2,000,000
McKenzie School HVAC	McKenzie School District	\$750,000
McKenzie Food Pantry	McKenzie Food Pantry	\$650,000
Water Suppression Tanks	McKenzie Fire and Rescue and Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District	\$1,073,000
Blue River Park Repairs and Improvements	Blue River Park District	\$897,000
McKenzie River Track Improvements	McKenzie River Track	\$500,000
Program Administration	Lane County	\$1,244,390

B. Policy Issues

These funds will support infrastructure projects and business recovery within the McKenzie River Valley. Accepting this grant does not trigger any new policy issues.

C. Board Goals

These funds will support Strategic Priority #2: Invest in Lane County residents by fostering engaged communities with affordable housing options, equitable opportunities, economic vitality, and a healthy environment. They will also support Strategic Priority #3 Robust Infrastructure by supporting preparedness and operational readiness and disaster recovery.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

- i. Lack of sufficient funds has hampered recovery efforts. Rejecting these funds would delay or prevent recovery for much needed community rebuilding including business recovery and hazard mitigation investments.

- ii. Successfully implementing this grant will require more administrative capacity than is currently available. This grant includes budget to pay for that administrative capacity to implement the associated PIER programs and projects.
- iii. This PIER grant is accompanied by a separate CDBG-DR grant to Lane County for ~\$17.5M to fund Affordable Housing Development for renters who were displaced by the Holiday Farm Fire. The total of these two grants, should they both be accepted, is just over \$24.5M.
- iv. This grant includes budget (10% de minimus) to pay for indirect costs. These funds will be set aside to cover County Administrative costs associated with this grant.
- v. This is a grant of federal CDBG-DR funds and there is no “local match” requirement.
- vi. The Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds are the final significant source of funding supporting Holiday Farm Fire Recovery.
- vii. This grant ends February 2, 2029.

E. Health Implications

Rejecting these funds would inhibit community recovery and reduce access to safe environments during future natural disasters.

F. Analysis

Lane Manual 20.600.300 contains the County’s policies regarding authority to execute grant applications and accept grants, including the following:

The Board must approve the acceptance of a grant exceeding one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). If an application for a grant in excess of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) obligates the County to accept the award as a condition of application, the Board must approve the application for the grant. Following Board approval of a grant or grant application, the Administrator is delegated authority to approve and execute all other grant documents.

The County Administrator is delegated authority to approve and execute all documents to continue a grant that was approved by the Board, so long as the continuation is substantially similar to the original grant approved by the Board.

Notwithstanding the limits on the County Administrator’s authority contained in this section, the County Administrator may approve grant applications and accept grants when necessary to secure the full benefit of the grant to the County, provided that:

- a. In the Administrator’s judgment, and with the concurrence of County Counsel and the budget and financial planning office, the grant applications or grants require execution prior to the time when they could reasonably be approved by the Board at regularly-scheduled meeting; and
- b. A description of the grant applications and grants, including the amounts, duration, and reason for prompt execution, is submitted to the Board for ratification on its consent agenda item following execution.

G. Alternatives/Options

- a. Accept grant funds from Oregon Housing and Community Services in the amount of up to \$7,926,980 for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER) for Holiday Farm Fire Recovery and Delegate Authority to the County Administrator to Execute the associated agreement.
- b. Direct staff to negotiate specific terms of the agreement with Oregon Housing and Community Services.
- c. Reject the funds

III. RECOMMENDATION

County Administration Policy Division recommends Option #1—Accept grant and delegate authority to the County Administrator to execute the associated agreement.

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Community Resilience and Recovery program staff aim to enter into agreements with the six PIER project sponsors as soon as possible following the signing of an OHCS/Lane County agreement.

V. FOLLOW-UP

Status reports will be shared at future Holiday Farm Fire quarterly updates to the Board.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 25-03-18-XX

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WHEREAS, Lane Manual Chapter 20 sets forth the County's policies regarding award, acceptance, and amendment of grants and contracts; and

WHEREAS, all of the contracts or grants listed below have been accepted or award in accordance with the requirements of the Lane Manual, including the requirements for competitive selection; and

WHEREAS, all the projects and services covered by the contracts, amendments, and grants listed below are routine to the implementation of current County programs and services or have been previously discussed or approved by the Board; and

WHEREAS, these contracts, amendments, and grants exceed the County Administrator's authority to execute granted in Lane Manual section 20.600.320,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows: Accept Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds from Oregon Housing and Community Services in the amount up to \$7,926,980 for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER) for Holiday Farm Fire Recovery and Delegate Authority to the County Administrator to Execute the Agreement.

ADOPTED this 18th day of March, 2025.

David Loveall, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

HOLIDAY FARM FIRE RECOVERY: FEDERAL GRANTS

Lane County Board of Commissioners

March 18, 2025

Matt McRae
Disaster Recovery Manager
Lane County Community Resilience and Recovery



Federal Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds (CDBG-DR)

US Department of
Housing and Urban
Development



Oregon Housing and
Community Services



Lane County

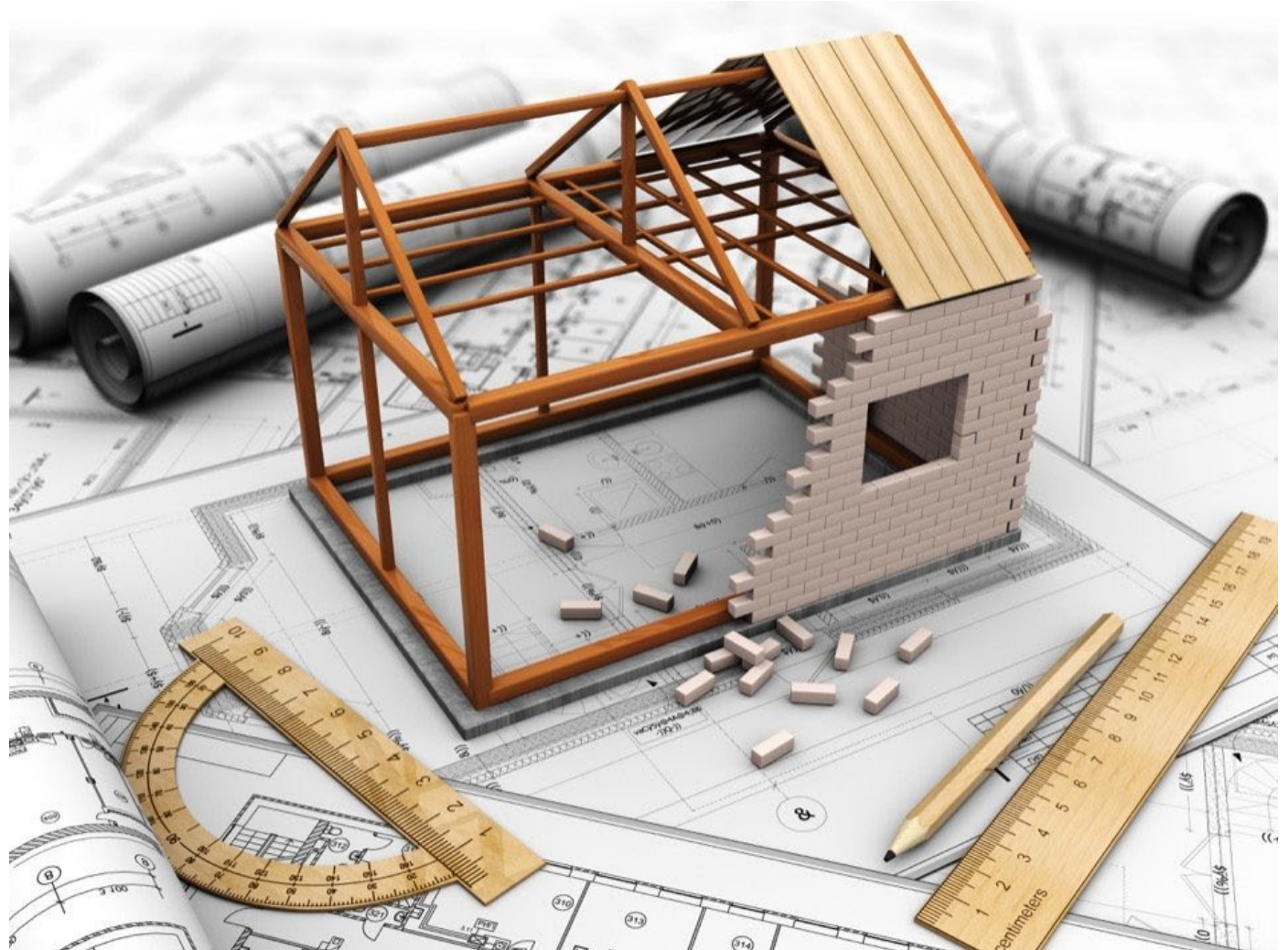


Affordable Housing Development Funds

\$17,483,497 for Affordable
Housing Development

Housing to serve renters
displaced by the Holiday Farm
Fire

No local match required



Planning Infrastructure and Economic Revitalization (PIER)

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THANK YOU

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