

Community Progress Report, June 2022

The HOPE Advisory Board is a joint effort between Benton County and the City of Corvallis to facilitate a comprehensive, coordinated response from the county, cities, and diverse community partners, leaders, and persons experiencing homelessness.

In June 2021, Benton County and the City of Corvallis accepted 3 Foundational & 12 Policy Recommendations from the HOPE Advisory Board to engage the community in a coordinated homelessness response. This document is a comprehensive list of progress made over the last year by the City, County, and community partners toward implementing those recommendations.

[Learn more at: co.benton.or.us/health/page/housing-and-homelessness](https://co.benton.or.us/health/page/housing-and-homelessness)

3 Foundational Recommendations

A. Organizational Capacity

- City hired staff with affordable housing & community development experience.
- County hired Grant Writer, Project Manager, & Communications Coordinator to support implementation of HOPE Recommendations.
- City & County hired Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Coordinators.
- City funded regional Bias Response Initiative based at OCWCOG
- CHF accepted into the Supportive Housing Institute sponsored by OHCS.



B. Funding Recommendations

- Project Turnkey funding turned former motel into more shelter capacity & brought state funding for future development.
- Measure 110 bringing state funds to expand housing & treatment for people who use substances.
- State funding for a two-year pilot to create a Coordinated Homeless Response Office.
- \$3 million in State resources to help address affordable housing & houselessness.
- County hired Grant Writer & Researcher to seek more sustainable funding.



C. Legislative Advocacy

- New state law allowing/requiring “middle housing” in all residential zones for more housing options for developers.
- Legislative changes on shelter siting, middle housing, & funding.
- County joined Oregon Housing Alliance to amplify legislative advocacy.
- Advocacy by City & County elected officials resulted in our inclusion in the two-year pilot legislation to bring funding for added staff capacity to implement HOPE recommendations.



12 Policy Recommendations

1. Data improvement

- New shelter/housing data analyst at CSC.
- HOPE Coordinator convening community partners for improved data sharing & analysis.
- IHN-CCO created Research Institute and collaborates with OSU researchers on data analysis.
- JSYS & Vina Moses using new data systems to improve tracking.
- CDDC SORT collecting field data twice per week.



2. Program metrics

- City/County/CSC & service providers learning about coordinated entry data systems to improve local data & work towards consistent metrics for success.
- JSYS measuring four core outcomes: safety & stability, social & emotional well-being, permanent connections, education & employment.



3. Care coordination

- City/County/CSC to convene organizations & systems that interact with vulnerable community members.
- BCBH working with law enforcement & courts to help individuals engaged with justice system.
- Community Court program connects low-level offenders to non-profit agencies.
- OABHI available to convene multidisciplinary discussions regarding at-risk older adults & people with disabilities.

[Learn more](#)



4. Case management

- IHN-CCO convening community partners on sustainable funding for case management & supportive services staffing.
- JSYS partnering with PSU on case management certification for their staff.
- CSD hired 3 new advocates to support families experiencing homelessness.



5. Crisis response

- BCBH and CPD launched Crisis Response Outreach & Engagement (CORE) Co-Response Team pilot program in 2021 to respond to 911 calls related to mental health crises.
- BCHD received funding to create mental health Crisis Center.
- CPD selected to pilot new Crisis Intervention & Response Training program.



6. Sheltering system

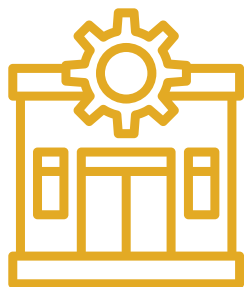
- COI added shelter for 18-24 year olds.
- CHF turned motel into 24 rooms for shelter.
- Unity expanded locations, staffing, & bed capacity.
- County Fairgrounds opened car & RV parking for over 1 year.
- CHANCE expanded motel sheltering & opened Second Chance shelter.
- JSYS added shelter capacity & supported living for youth.

[Learn more](#)



7. Resource center

- United Way convening community partners to coordinate efforts for a Navigation Center.
- CDDC expanded staff capacity & data reporting as a low-barrier resource hub.



8. Reduce barriers

- City/County coordinated homelessness response team working to identify ways to convene nonprofit partners for coordinated case management services for high needs individuals.



9. Communication

- BCHD hired Communications Coordinator.
- OABHI working to enhance systems coordination & collaboration with community-based organizations.
- Disability Equity Center offers weekly online news to connect people to community events & supports.



10. Housing options

- CHF & Unity turned former motel into emergency shelter w/ funding from City/County.
- CHF & City secured funding for 40-45 units of permanent supportive housing.
- City working w/ developers to add potentially 160 units of affordable housing in South Corvallis.
- City approved code regulations that reduce barriers to increased housing development.
- CHF moved 5 people into permanent supportive housing with City funding.

[Learn more](#)



11. Rental/income assistance

- Homeless service providers referred 70 Benton County households for Emergency Housing Vouchers which transitioned 73 people of homelessness.
- CSC served 930 households with rental assistance.
- CSD hired 3 new advocates to support families experiencing homelessness.
- JSYS implemented tiered rental assistance to support self-sufficiency for 18-24 year olds.



12. Supportive services

- BCBH added: children's outpatient & in-school services, jail & forensics team, therapists in primary care settings, adult outpatient therapist.
- Samaritan & IHN added: social workers, medical respite bed navigator.
- Pathfinder established community training & support hub.
- CHANCE restarted peer support specialist training & provides case management for inmates.
- JSYS secured mental health staff supervision through DHS.

