



Staff Report

For Special City Council Meeting - 12/13/2022

Subject - New Business - Discussion - LOC/OMA Partnership Needed to Solve Statewide Homelessness

Synopsis: [program paraphrase from League of Oregon Cities (LOC) correspondence] *The City received correspondence from the LOC in October asking if [we] would like to partner with the LOC and the Oregon Mayors Association (OMA) in support of two separate, yet parallel, budget proposals during the 2023 Legislative Session: (1) a budget package which provides direct allocation to cities for homelessness response and prevention services; and (2) a budget package that provides capital improvement funding for cities.*

OMA is proposing a direct allocation of funding from the state to each incorporated city in Oregon for cities to use in their homelessness response and prevention services.

It is proposed that each city will be allocated funds in an amount equal to \$40 per resident, in accordance with the latest official population estimates from Portland State University. The proposal requires that in no instance will an incorporated city receive less than \$50,000 in direct funding.

OMA's proposal provides cities the ability to elect to use the funds for their own homelessness response and prevention services, or to redirect their funds to community partners who are required to use the funds for homelessness response and prevention services. OMA's proposal states that funds must be used for homelessness response and prevention services, which may include:

- *Abatement/clean-up*
- *Environmental mitigation*
- *Affordable housing*
- *Capital construction or improvement costs related to homelessness or affordable housing measures*
- *Community resource officers*

- *Education and outreach*
- *Food bank assistance*
- *Shelter and/or transitional housing*
- *Hygiene stations*
- *Operation costs*
- *Outreach workers*
- *Prevention*

With a \$50,000 guarantee for all cities, and a \$40.00 per resident multiplier in place - based on the April 19, 2022, PSU population estimates - the total amount requested would equal \$123,575,800.00 annually.

In addition to the direct allocations, the proposal requires a meaningful allocation from the state for coordinated capital construction investments for specific shelter and transitional housing projects, statewide. It is expected that a final dollar amount for needed capital construction investments will equal between \$125 to \$175 million. The OMA is seeking information from Oregon cities about any needs they may have for capital construction investments from the state in their local responses to addressing the homelessness crisis.

The OMA Homelessness Taskforce and the OMA Board of Directors seek the support of Oregon's 241 cities for the above-described proposal. In an effort to present the legislature and Oregon's next governor with a truly coordinated and collaborative proposal, the OMA hopes to submit its legislative request with as many city partners as possible. To explain the statewide nature of this crisis, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), in partnership with the OMA, has secured the services of a communications specialist to work directly with cities interested in supporting the OMA proposal. The communications specialist will work directly with interested cities to develop a one-page document that outlines a city's unique experience with homelessness, and how the funding proposed by the OMA would help the city respond to, or even prevent, homelessness in their community. Work performed by the consultant in support of the OMA proposal will be paid for by the LOC.

If your city is interested in supporting this proposal, please let me know and provide me with a list of any capital project funding your city needs to address or prevent homelessness. We are compiling a list of all capital project needs to submit as part of one comprehensive funding package. Some cities have submitted things like "\$250,000 for portable showers/toilets" or "\$2.5 million to build a navigation center."

The Mayor, Councilor Gould, and myself have already submitted the required letter of interest by their November deadline. We also worked with LOC representative Lindsay Huddleston last Monday to start the City's project draft submission for the legislature. Each City's submission is in the same format (attached). The point of this discussion is to narrow down project objectives, or use of funds, and to decide whether or not Council is interested in the capital construction investment piece. After details are determined, a simple motion will allow participation.

Council Options:

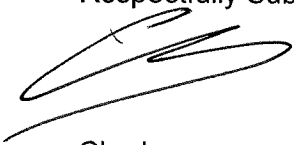
- 1) Motion for consensus approving the City's involvement in the statewide LOC and OMA Homelessness Emergency Project, including the option to divert funds to partnering communities if necessary;
- 2) Do nothing.

Recommended Motion: Staff suggests Council motion to approve the City's involvement.

Legal Analysis: N/A

Financial Analysis: Based on the LOC's population and available funds ratio calculation, the City would ask the State for \$76,840 in allocated funds.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Chad', written in a cursive style.

Chad