



CITY OF
GEARHART

**A REQUEST FOR CLATSOP COUNTY TO)
BE INCLUDED IN STATE EMERGENCY) RESOLUTION #977
DECLARATION DUE TO)
HOMELESSNESS)**

Whereas, Governor Kotek issued a Homelessness State of Emergency on January 10, 2023, but did not include 25 of the 36 Oregon Counties (including Clatsop); and

Whereas, from 2017 to 2021, the number of people experiencing homelessness in Clatsop County increased by approximately 32%; and

Whereas, nearly 900 individuals experience homelessness in Clatsop County; representing 22.7 homeless people per 1,000 population; and

Whereas, Clatsop County has the highest per capita homelessness rate in the State of Oregon and this rate is nearly double the next highest county; and

Whereas, homelessness in Clatsop County has caused and is threatening to cause widespread injury to people and property, human suffering, and financial loss; and

Whereas, local jurisdictions and businesses have spent and continue to direct significant resources to address the impact of people experiencing homelessness, including but not limited to, collecting and disposing of debris, garbage, waste and biohazards to restore land to intended public purpose and use; and

Whereas, Clatsop County has prioritized funding for homeless services as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding strategy and the Clatsop County Strategic Plan; and

Whereas, Clatsop County applied, and was selected to participate in Project Turnkey 2.0 to expand the number and availability of emergency shelter beds; and

Whereas, Clatsop County is over represented with the number of people experiencing homelessness and does not have adequate resources to address the critical services and infrastructure necessary to humanely serve this vulnerable population; and

Whereas, ORS 401.165 et seq. empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency upon determining that an emergency has occurred or is imminent; and

Whereas, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners has requested the Governor find that the unsheltered homeless in Clatsop County has caused and is threatening to

cause widespread injury to people and property, human suffering, and financial loss and thus constitutes an emergency under ORS 401.025(1); and

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Gearhart supports the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners request; and

Whereas, to reduce homelessness and its impacts, this declaration is necessary to expand local shelter capacity, to rehouse people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and to prevent homelessness to the greatest extent possible; and

Whereas, Clatsop County and local jurisdictions do not have adequate resources to address this critical public health, public safety and humanitarian crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Gearhart located within Clatsop County requests the following:

1. The Governor, through Oregon Emergency Management, include Clatsop County in the State of Emergency Due to Homelessness and for Clatsop County to have access to all subsequent programs, services, technical assistance and resources to address the homelessness crisis throughout Clatsop County, including municipalities.

ADOPTED this 1st day of February, 2023.

ATTEST:



Kerry Smith, Gearhart Mayor



Chad Sweet, City Administrator



