



Oregon

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Housing and Community Services



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Rural homeless benefit by almost \$1.5 million

Salem, Oregon – Rural Oregon Continuum of Care (ROCC) has received \$1,473,673 in federal grant funds to help the homeless. ROCC is a program of Oregon Housing and Community Services, which has successfully applied for these funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the past six years.

Other Oregon COC organizations applied for HUD funds as well for a total award of \$12,707,015 for Oregon. COC grants provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons. In addition, these Continuum grants fund services such as job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care.

OHCS, the applicant for ROCC, will work closely with partner agencies to fund 20 specific projects around the state. Six of these are new projects. Seventeen projects will provide transitional housing with wraparound services to homeless individuals and families. Two projects will provide permanent housing for chronically homeless individuals; one of which will collaborate with the Office of Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) to provide services to chronically homeless individuals with serious mental illness. The Homeless Management Information Services (HMIS) renewal project provides training and technical assistance to the network of participating agencies in the current HMIS system.

HMIS is part of a wider system named OPUS, which is a web-based centralized data application designed to directly link low-income Oregonians and their social service intake workers across the state to the crucial services available to them in their area. OPUS is also designed to meet the data collection and business needs of OHCS Community Resources Division (CRD) and its partners. The goals of OPUS is to create a data collection system that meets the reporting requirements for all OHCS funded activities, including COC, provide improved access for our partners, and reduce the administrative burden on agencies.

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The OPUS system is designed to accommodate change, be customer friendly through a web browser interface, and support ad hoc reporting and policy analysis. The OPUS website www.opus.hcs.state.or.us provides information about the project, its current status, project schedule, and other related information.

For more information on the other ROCC projects, please contact Lynn Adams at 503.986.6736, lynn.d.adams@hcs.state.or.us, or Jodie Jones at 503.986.2096, jodie.jones@hcs.state.or.us.

OHCS is the state's housing finance agency and community services program administrator. The department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for Oregonians of lower and moderate income, and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance and community service programs. For more information, visit our website at www.ohcs.oregon.gov.