

T. Z. B. I.

Memorandum Date: November 7, 2007
Order Date: November 20, 2007

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Children & Families

PRESENTED BY: Alicia Hays, Department Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO THE OREGON COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$250,000 OVER EIGHTEEN MONTHS FOR THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH INITIATIVE

I. MOTION

Move to approve submittal and, if awarded, acceptance of a grant to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families in the amount of up to \$250,000 over eighteen months for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The State of Oregon, through its Oregon Commission on Children & Families (OCCF) is seeking proposals from communities via Local Commissions on Children & Families (LCCF) to develop innovative approaches for meeting the needs of runaway and homeless youth. The purpose of this funding is to enable communities to enhance, expand or create supports and services to runaway and homeless youth (RHY) by providing one or more of the commonly accepted elements inherent in the continuum of effective services for RHY. While these services are available to youth in the Eugene/Springfield metro area, the rural areas of our county are lacking in the supports and services necessary to address the needs of runaway and homeless youth. The OCCF Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative is an opportunity for our community to address the gaps in our response to Runaway and Homeless Youth.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Lane County has not submitted an application for funding for this program before. As noted below (Board Goals), related planning efforts have received Board of County Commissioners approval.

B. Policy Issues

This grant application is in line with the County's policies and procedures as well

as the purpose and objectives of the Department of Children & Families (DCF). If awarded, the department will administer the grant, and will provide support and assistance to the grant partners. The majority of the funds will pass through to local partners with minimal change in the scope of work for the department.

C. Board Goals

The Comprehensive Community Plan for Services to Children, Youth and Families was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 23, 2004 (BO 04-6-23-11) and can be found at:

<http://www.co.lane.or.us/CCF/documents/ComprehensiveCommunityStrategicPlan2004finaljun04.pdf>

It includes the following priorities which this funding would help achieve:

High Level Outcome 20: Decrease Runaway Behavior & Youth Homelessness

A) Increase the availability and range of services for at-risk and runaway youth and families directed toward stability and reunification.

B) Increase the availability and range of services for homeless youth.

In addition, this funding is in line with the 10 Year Plan to end Chronic Homelessness, approved by the Board of County Commissioners on November 8, 2006 (BO 06-11-8-1).

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

The grant budget will include funding for DCF staff to carry out grant administration duties, including development of any contracts and/or intergovernmental agreements, facilitation of quarterly team meetings, preparation and submission of required fiscal and program reports, and other outcome monitoring responsibilities.

E. Analysis

Lane County has a state of the art continuum of care for runaway and homeless youth. However, services are located in the urban core of Springfield and Eugene. Rural communities are severely lacking in resources and supports for youth at-risk of family separation. Consequently, youth leave their home communities and migrate to urban centers abandoning family, support networks, and familiar surroundings. Rural services consist primarily of family resource centers, schools with McKinney-Vento Homeless liaisons, religious groups, and small non-profits that serve primarily homeless families and adults. When families are in trouble and parents are unable or unwilling to reach out, virtually no services are available in rural Lane County for assistance to youth.

The urban services continuum has established excellent collaborations and partnerships with virtually all youth and family services agencies and community resources in Lane County. All RHY and at-risk youth who are ineligible for services are referred to a combination of services listed below.

- *Safe & Sound Youth Project* - Services provided by S&S Partners include: street outreach, transitional living; an alternative education school; Project Safe Place; sexual assault support services; a medical clinic (the local FQHC); reproductive health education (Planned Parenthood) mental health treatment (Directions Service); substance abuse outpatient treatment(LG Counseling Program); and HIV/AIDS counseling and testing (HIV Alliance) all available on-site at the New Roads Youth Access Center.
- *Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence and Homeless Youth Project* - a Family and Youth services Bureau (FYSB) funded project to provide cross training and improved interventions with runaway and homeless youth related to unsafe relationships. The coalition between Womenspace, the Lane County Domestic Violence Council, Department of Children and Families, and Looking Glass New Roads and Station 7 Programs are providing cross training and empathy training to improve interventions in Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence occurrences with runaway and homeless youth;
- *Positive Youth Development (PYD) Demonstration Pilot Project* - Looking Glass is a partner with Lane County Department of Children and Families, Leadership, Education, Adventure and Direction (L.E.A.D.) and community youth. The project was designed and developed by and for youth, as a replicable process for communities to increase opportunities for youth leisure time, self-expression, and civic engagement. This initiative is a Family and Youth Services Bureau funded demonstration project that offers youth/adult partnerships, youth driven community opportunities, civic involvement and self expression.
- *Law and Advocacy Center* – for the previous three years a local private attorney has been volunteering basic legal services monthly on-site at the Youth Access Center. Starting July 2007 Looking Glass New Roads has entered into a collaboration to provide legal services for 8 hours a week at the Youth Access Center.

The goal of this project is to enable communities to enhance, expand or create supports and services to RHY by providing one or more of the commonly accepted elements inherent in the continuum of effective services for RHY. The team designing this project includes staff from DCF, Lane County Human Services Commission, the Lane Education Service District's McKinney-Vento Rural Consortium, and Looking Glass/Station 7 and New Roads programs. These partners agree there is a strong need for RHY services in the rural areas of Lane County. The partners believe that by working collaboratively they can better address the gaps in supports and services at the local level for RHY, thereby supporting youth to remain in their home communities. In addition, this team believes it is critical to the success of the initiative to engage with local service

providers and other key players from the rural communities in which program activities will take place.

Administrative Policies and procedures questions for Grant Applications:

1. What is the match requirement, if any, and how is that to be covered for the duration of the grant?

This grant requires a 10% match which can be cash or inkind over the period of the grant. The match requirement will be met through a combination of other funding within the DCF budget and match requirements passed on to subcontractors who are partners in this effort.

2. Will the grant require expenditures for Material and Services or capital not fully paid for by the grant?

No, all expenditures will be fully paid for by the grant.

3. Will the grant funds be fully expended before county funds need to be spent?

There are no county funds in the grant budget for this application.

4. How will the administrative work of the grant be covered if the grant funds don't cover it?

Administrative expenses will be covered by grant funds. DCF will administer the grant, including contract monitoring and outcome reporting requirements. The majority of the funds will pass through to local providers with minimal change in the scope of work for the department.

5. Have grant stakeholders been informed of the grant sun-setting policy so there is no misunderstanding when the funding ends? Describe plan for service if funding does not continue.

The grant development team understands that the grant period is eighteen months; further, partners understand that this is a competitive program and there is no guarantee of continuation funding from OCCF. The application seeks funding to provide capacity-building and infrastructure support to rural communities, to enable continued supports beyond the life of this grant program.

6. What accounting, auditing, and evaluation obligations are imposed by the grant conditions?

This grant requires quarterly data collection & reporting through the existing OCCF

web-based data collection system. Information to be collected includes program service data, outcomes, and local system activity area results related to this initiative. As the lead department on this grant, DCF will be responsible for assuring these obligations are met; the data collection and outcome reporting obligations will be key requirements in contractual work plans.

7. How will the department cover the accounting, auditing, and evaluation obligations? How are the costs for these obligations covered, regardless whether they are in the department submitting the grant or a support service department? Does the department acknowledge that the county will need to cover these costs and it is an appropriate cost incurred by support service departments?

Accounting, auditing, and evaluation costs will be covered by the grant funds. DCF will fulfill auditing/accounting activities. As noted above, reporting requirements will be included in contractual work plans.

8. Are there any restrictions against applying the county full cost indirect charge?

The budget to be submitted includes indirect charges; this funding source limits indirect costs to 10% of grant total, but does allow line-item expenditures for some indirect-related costs, such as telephones. Should the budgeted amount be inadequate, DCF will absorb the excess with OCCF funding that allows for community mobilization and strategic development.

9. Are there unique or unusual conditions that trigger additional county work effort or liability, i.e., maintenance of effort requirements or supplanting prohibitions or indemnity obligations?

This grant has a requirement against supplanting federal, state or local funds. This requirement is not unique and exists with other grant agreements currently administered by DCF.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the submittal of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative grant application and, if awarded, accept the grant award and authorize the County Administrator to sign all grant application and award related documents.
2. Decline to submit the grant proposal at this time. The Oregon Commission on Children & Families eligibility criteria state that applications will be accepted only if submitted by a county's local Commission on Children & Families. The community partners working on this effort have no other potential local government partner. Should the

Board decline to approve the submission of this grant application, the local community will not have an opportunity to benefit from these funds.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend Option 1: Adopt the Order to authorize the County Administrator to sign the grant application and all related grant award documents.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW UP

The Board must take action at its meeting on November 20th in order to meet the deadline for submission to OCCF offices in Salem, Oregon by November 28th, 2007. Upon Board approval the grant will be submitted. OCCF schedule of proposed solicitation events indicates that proposals will be reviewed December 6th, with award notification anticipated by December 21, 2008 and funds released to successful applicants by January, 2008.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER No. IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL AND, IF AWARDED, ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO THE OREGON COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$250,000 OVER EIGHTEEN MONTHS FOR THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Oregon Commission on Children and Families is requesting proposals for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Lane County through the Department of Children and Families is working with agencies and service providers supporting homeless and runaway youth and their families to develop a competitive proposal; and

WHEREAS, decreasing runaway behavior and youth homelessness is a high level outcome in the Lane County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, increasing services to homeless youth to prepare them for independent living is a goal listed in the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the grant application amount is beyond the County Administrator's delegated authority, and

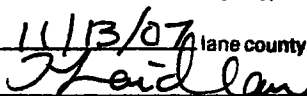
WHEREAS, if the proposal is approved and funding awarded, the revenue agreement will be beyond the County Administrator's delegated authority;

NOW IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the Board of County Commissioners approve the submission of the grant to the Oregon Commission on Children and Families for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Initiative and delegate the County Administrator to sign the application; and, it is further

ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners delegate authority to the County Administrator to accept the award and sign a revenue agreement with the Oregon Commission on Children and Families in the amount of up to \$250,000 over a period of eighteen months.

APPROVED this _____ day of November, 2007

Faye Stewart, Chair
BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Date 11/13/07 lane county

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL