

2016-2019 Central Oregon Regional Health Improvement Plan Work Plan DRAFT v8

RHIP Priority: Housing

The lack of safe and affordable housing in Central Oregon has become more than just a question of access and availability – it has become a public health crisis. Low-income families in all three counties struggle to find affordable housing. Homelessness persists and is becoming more widespread, while in many instances, it remains relatively invisible. Given all we know about the importance of housing to health, the current housing environment in this region is widening and exacerbating inequities and health disparities that impact people with fewer financial and support resources. This is particularly true for individuals and families trapped in a cycle of crisis and housing instability due to growing poverty, trauma, violence, mental illness, addiction or other chronic health conditions.

The Social Determinants of Health - Housing Workgroup (“Housing Workgroup”) is comprised of individuals, organizations and agencies across many areas – affordable housing, homelessness, health care, social services, education and transportation - who are focused on promoting the vulnerable and at-risk end of the housing spectrum: those who are homeless and those in need of very low income, low income and workforce housing. The Housing Workgroup acknowledges that we must bridge housing solutions with the health system. As such, this group will work to address issues of housing using a health lens, beginning with laying a strong foundation of developing agreed upon definitions around key terms (i.e. homelessness, workforce housing, housing stressed, etc.) and identifying the data needs and resources to develop meaningful analysis. These data will then be used to focus on our current priority areas and goals which include:

- 1. Organizational Capacity** – To develop shared definitions and conduct a data needs assessment
- 2. Policy** - To be an effective resource to local municipalities on developing policies and programs that increase affordable housing options and supports
- 3. Advocacy** - To help support projects and pass specific legislation and ordinances that impact local and state housing policies and counter a NIMBY perspective
- 4. Outreach and Awareness** - To gather and analyze data and share actionable information on homelessness and affordable housing
- 5. New Initiatives** - To support new cross sector initiatives with a focus on non-traditional, disruptive innovation

Goal 1: Organizational Capacity – To develop shared definitions and conduct a data needs assessment

Health Indicator(s) addressed	RHIP Strategy	Activity addressing strategy	Timeline
NA or TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop shared definitions around key terms (i.e. homelessness, housing stressed, etc.) • Conduct a data inventory to determine who is gathering/tracking what data and what is missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact all key stakeholders to determine what definitions and parameters they are using in working with different populations • Conduct data inventory with breakout between <18 and >18 wherever possible • Identify gaps or new data that we should try to gather as a region 	<p>August-end of October</p> <p>Ongoing, initial data inventory completed by end of December</p> <p>To be done concurrent with data inventory</p>
Parties Responsible	Target Metric	Implementation Progress and Status	
Housing Workgroup members (see to the right)	TBD/NA (may include a shared definition of various housing-related terms)	<p>Still in the early stages on both the shared definitions and data inventory – we see these actions as predominantly one-time efforts to form a foundation upon which the other Housing goals will proceed.</p> <p>Housing Workgroup members working in this Goal area include Kristin Chatfield (OHSU), Dave Huntley, Gwenn Wysling (Bethlehem Inn), Elaine Knobbs-Seasholtz (Mosaic Medical), and Molly Taroli (PacificSource)</p> <p>Potential additional people to add include: Alan Burke (SCMC) and the new HMIS person at NeighborImpact</p>	

Goal 2: Policy - To be an effective resource to local municipalities on developing policies and programs that increase affordable housing options and supports

Health Indicator(s) addressed	RHIP Strategy	Activity addressing strategy	Timeline
NA or TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research existing housing-related policies (e.g. land use, development code, etc.) both around Central Oregon and outside the region • Research potential funding strategies and options (including Medicaid) for affordable housing and support services • Build effective networks through increased collaboration • Develop relationships with key stakeholders (i.e. planners, elected officials) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop research “team” and begin identifying housing-related policies and funding options for the region • Identify key contacts in local city and county municipalities and set up meetings with them 	<p>Ongoing – first meeting by September</p> <p>Ongoing – initial contact and/or introduction made by October</p>
Parties Responsible	Target Metric	Implementation Progress and Status	
Research Team (see to the right), local municipalities (cities and counties)	TBD – will likely be housing related (i.e. housing stock, support services provided, affordability, etc.)	<p>Research Team members include Bruce Abernethy (Bend-La Pine Schools), Molly Taroli (PacificSource), Lynne McConnell (NeighborImpact), Geoff Wall (Housing Works), Larry Kogovsek, Rachael Marble (Deschutes County)</p> <p>COVO will take the lead on identifying municipal contacts</p> <p>There is a desire to figure out how (and who) to include Warm Springs in this effort</p>	

Goal 3: Advocacy - To help support projects and pass specific legislation and ordinances that impact local and state housing policies and counter a NIMBY perspective

Health Indicator(s) addressed	RHIP Strategy	Activity addressing strategy	Timeline
NA or TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize community-wide responses on housing-related topics • Connect with various faith-based social justice committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit letters of support for policies and projects (or opposition as applicable) • Testify at hearings (locally and in Salem) • Identify and utilize effective subject matter experts to help shape opinions • Provide housing advocacy training to the community on 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>First training will take place in the Fall</p>
Parties Responsible	Target Metric	Implementation Progress and Status	
Housing Workgroup members (see to the right), HLC, other affordable housing groups	TBD	<p>Subcommittee comprised of Bruce Abernethy (Bend-La Pine Schools), Don Senecal (HLC), and Larry Kogovsek, with need to approach Cody Standiford (COVO), Deedee Johnson (Bend Area Habitat for Humanity) and a Bethlehem Inn rep (TBD).</p> <p>Early stages on all activities and still figuring out what this will look like (i.e. who decides when to weigh in and what exactly to say? task of subcommittee? What is the tie to Goal 2 - Policy)?</p>	

Goal 4: Outreach and Awareness - To gather and analyze data and share actionable information on homelessness and affordable housing

Health Indicator(s) addressed	RHIP Strategy	Activity addressing strategy	Timeline
NA or TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise an outreach strategy to build awareness about housing and health, educate the community, and develop relationships (i.e. create the “stories” that help shape opinions) • Formalize data collection and analysis • Develop effective channels for sharing information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop data repository or system for collecting current data on affordable housing and homelessness • Develop materials (e.g. handouts, powerpoint) for presentations in schools and the community • Work to educate builders on implementing health components into design and construction • Develop relationships with local media and submit press releases/media advisories as warranted • Develop social media campaign as funding allows 	<p>Established by December</p> <p>Available by end of September</p> <p>Materials developed by October and presentations starting November</p> <p>Contacts/relationships made by end of September</p> <p>Plan developed by end of September (funding?)</p>
Parties Responsible	Target Metric	Implementation Progress and Status	
Housing Workgroup members (see to the right)	Major depressive disorder (TBD) Link impacts on young children to other SDH focus area (Early Learning)	<p>Already have the data repository/system for tracking homeless Early stages on affordable housing (much information will be gathered through the data inventory and by the Research Team).</p> <p>Outreach and Awareness Committee members include: Judy Watts (COIC), Holly Wenzell (Crook County Health Dept.), and Dave Huntley.</p>	

Goal 5: New Initiatives - To support new cross sector initiatives with a focus on non-traditional, disruptive innovation

Health Indicator(s) addressed	RHIP Strategy	Activity addressing strategy	Timeline
NA or TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support new cross sector initiatives (i.e. housing and health) with a focus on non-traditional, disruptive innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage additional stakeholders in the conversation Resource development for projects and programs (e.g. grantwriting, fundraising) Support initiatives from other plans (10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, City of Bend Comprehensive Plan, Bend Livability Project, etc.) 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Parties Responsible	Target Metric	Implementation Progress and Status	
Health orgs (PacificSource, St Charles et al)	TBD	<p>Early stages, need to determine what resource development looks like (how can this workgroup actually add value?)</p> <p>Preliminary members of this committee include: Elaine Knobbs-Seasholtz (Mosaic Medical), Rob Roy/Rima Wilson (Pacific Crest Affordable Housing), Geoff Wall (Housing Works). Others to ask include: Michael Hinton (NeighborImpact) and Shimiko Montgomery (First United Methodist Church)</p>	