

## Request for Proposals (RFP)

**Project Name:** Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) Lived Experience Listening Sessions

**Access Code:** [ALICE2021](#)

**Organization Name:** Central Oregon Health Council; Regional Health Improvement Plan (RHIP) **Regional Health Improvement Workgroup:** [Address Poverty and Enhance Self-Sufficiency Workgroup](#)

**Future State Measures:** [By December 2024, decrease the total population Asset Limited Income Constrained, Employed \(ALICE\) by 2 percentage points to: Jefferson 32%, Crook 27%, Deschutes 24%.](#)

[By December 2024, reduce combined housing and transportation cost for residents as a percent of income in their respective counties to no more than: Crook 64%, Deschutes 55%, Jefferson 55%.](#)

**Contact Person:** MaCayla Arsenault

**Email:** [macayla.arsenault@cohealthcouncil.org](mailto:macayla.arsenault@cohealthcouncil.org)

**Phone Number:** 541-306-3523

## About the Central Oregon Health Council

The [Central Oregon Health Council](#) (COHC) is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt public and private community governance organization. We are dedicated to improving the health of Central Oregon communities.

The Central Oregon Health Council is responsible for funding projects that improve the health priorities of the [Regional Health Improvement Plan](#). These priorities were decided by the diverse people of our region before COVID-19.

We recognize that when we invest and support long-term, preventative solutions we build a Central Oregon that is better able to respond to present and future crises. Therefore, we reserve most of our funds for projects whose impact can be measured over decades. The goal of this Request for Proposal is to support long-term, system level change.

We also provide smaller funding opportunities for \$5,000 or less called mini grants [HERE](#).

## Description of Grant Opportunity

The *Address Poverty and Enhance Self-Sufficiency* workgroup seeks to hire a consultant to conduct regional listening sessions to uncover barriers that keep individuals and families Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)\*. The assessment will include the barriers of housing costs and transportation and focus on rural areas of the region. The ideal applicant will possess knowledge and expertise about barriers and offer possible solutions. The consultant will report findings and recommendations to the workgroup.

## Proposal Requirements

**Your proposal must include these qualities:**

Consultant must design and execute an assessment that meets the criteria below.

- Include multiple listening sessions, with a reflective sample of participants per county, prioritizing Jefferson and Crook Counties and working with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS)
  - Counties included
    - Crook (to include rural residents)
    - Deschutes (to include south Deschutes, with at least one listening session)
    - Jefferson with at least one listening session held in Warm Springs
    - Northern Klamath towns of Chemult, Gilchrist, Crescent, and Crescent Lake Junction.
  - The applicant has the option to submit a proposal to conduct listening sessions in only one county, with a priority on Jefferson and Crook counties with a prorated budget.
- Identify and conduct listening sessions with community members who are under the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) threshold \* to include seniors and individuals with disabilities
- Prioritize BIPOC communities, limited English, immigrant, and tribal communities
  - At least one listening session will be provided in Spanish
- Provide a minimum of \$50 stipend to each participant. Stipends can be built into grant budget up to \$15,000
- Leverage existing community groups to recruit and conduct listening sessions
- Listening sessions must include open-ended questions
- Assessment may also include surveys, interviews and partnerships with other organizations as appropriate
  - Ex. Sub-contract with interpreters to assist in Spanish listening sessions^
- Listening session questions and assessment tools such as surveys must be provided to the RHIP Workgroup for review and approval before they are used

Consultant must present a written report of their findings and specific recommendations to the Address Poverty and Enhance Self Sufficiency Workgroup. The report must include:

- The top three barriers an ALICE individual and families face when trying to make ends meet (i.e., housing, transportation, food, childcare, healthcare, coordination of support services etc.)
- Specific barriers around housing, transportation and income
- Results broken down by community or zip code
- Results must be validated for accuracy by the community served.

Additional information to include in application:

- Demonstrated expertise
- Experience in conducting listening sessions
- Organizational policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Budget that includes participant stipends
- Demonstrated connection to the ALICE population for listening sessions, if any

Collaborative letters of support are recommended, but not required. The Workgroup can help connect and identify partners that will help recruit individuals to participate in listening sessions

- ^Partnerships may include, but are not limited to:
  - NeighborImpact, Council on Aging of Central Oregon, Public Health, St. Charles Health System, Mosaic Medical, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Better Together, Migrant Education, Latino Community Association, Head Start, WIC, Warm Springs Community Action Team, Juntos, Faith Based Communities (i.e. Linc in Madras)

The final product should include the cross sectionality between the barriers provided that are authentically shared by the participants. The Workgroup will use the results of the listening sessions to identify the unique needs of the communities in Central Oregon and will result in individualized approaches and creative options for each community.

*\* ALICE households represent men and women of all ages and races who are working but unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, childcare, health care, and transportation due to the lack of jobs that can support basic necessities and increases in the basic cost of living. Learn more about ALICE [HERE](#).*

## Why are these efforts needed?

The following information comes from the [2020-2024 Regional Health Improvement Plan](#).

There is a demonstrated relationship between socioeconomic status and health outcomes. Low socioeconomic status greatly increases an individual's risk for disease and premature death. There is also significant evidence linking income inequity to health disparities and poor health outcomes.

Healthy People 2020 highlighted the importance of economic stability including employment, food security, housing stability, and poverty status, to consider when developing strategies to positively impact health outcomes (2020-2024 Regional Health Improvement Plan).

Sadly, 24.6% of Deschutes County households, 37.6% of Jefferson County households, and 42.2% of Crook County households are employed, but cannot afford the basic necessities to live (United for ALICE). Each community in Central Oregon is unique and requires specialized strategies to allow each household to thrive. Results from the listening session will allow the Address Poverty and Enhance Self-Sufficiency workgroup to partner with and meet the need of each community.

### Evaluation Criteria:

The *Address Poverty and Enhance Self-Sufficiency* workgroup will review your grant application using this [scorecard](#). We encourage you to use it to help build your proposal.

## Funding Details and Important Information

**Number of Awards:** 1

**Award Amount:** \$80,000 including up to \$15,000 allotted for individual stipends for listening session participants. Listening session stipend funds must be returned to the COHC if not used.

**Project Length:** 12 months from time of award

**Anticipated Selection Schedule:**

Application Due Date: January 6, 2022 at 12PM PST

Decision Notification: February 15, 2022 by email

## How to Apply

This Request for Proposal is posted on our website [HERE](#).

For instructions on how to access the application, please click [HERE](#).

Once registered and logged into the grant platform, use this access code to apply for this grant: [ALICE2021](#)

## Support

If you have questions about this Request for Proposal, please contact:

MaCayla Arsenault, Project Manager at [macayla.arsenault@cohealthcouncil.org](mailto:macayla.arsenault@cohealthcouncil.org) or 541-306-3523

If you have questions about the application, parts of the application, or using the grant platform please contact:

Rebeckah Berry, Grant and Metrics Manager at [rebeckah.berry@cohealthcouncil.org](mailto:rebeckah.berry@cohealthcouncil.org) or 541-306-3523