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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jackson County Exceeds Executive Order Goals

Jackson County, January 10th, 2024 On January 10, 2023, Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order 23-02 (EO 23-02), which declared a state of emergency due to homelessness. EO 23-02 provided funding to rapidly expand the State's low-barrier shelter capacity, to rehouse people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and to prevent homelessness to the greatest extent possible. Participating counties were given a deadline of January 10, 2024 to reach their established goals.

The Oregon Housing and Community Services Department delivered \$130 million in funding to seven of Oregon's Continuums of Care (CoCs) deemed emergency areas, including Jackson County, which was initially awarded \$8.8 million.

On April 10th, it was announced that Jackson County would receive an additional \$1.5 million in funding to combat homelessness by providing homelessness prevention services. These funds were designated for eviction prevention interventions such as rental assistance and, in coordination with partners who are providing mediation and legal services, to support households at risk of eviction.

The goals originally established for Jackson County were: 1) Rapidly rehouse 133 unsheltered households; 2) Increase low-barrier emergency shelter by creating 67 new additional shelter beds; and 3) Provide homelessness prevention services to 385 households. The goals were to be coordinated and accomplished by a Multiagency Coordination (MAC) group.

Jackson County's CoC and MAC are thrilled to report we have far exceeded the initial goals. Due to our successful placements, in December OHCS updated our rapid rehousing goal to 200, and provided us an additional 1.1 million dollars to continue placing unsheltered households. We have exceeded those updated goals as well. From January 10, 2023 to January 10, 2024 the following partner agencies have worked together to serve the community.

- 1) Rapid rehousing – 217 households were rapidly rehoused by partner agencies Community Works, OHRA, and ACCESS.
- 2) Shelter beds – 123 shelter beds added with the help of the City of Medford, Rogue Retreat, the City of Ashland, and OHRA.
- 3) Eviction Prevention – 435 household evictions prevented by partner agencies Unete, Resolve, The Arc Jackson County, The Salvation Army, OHRA, and ACCESS.

We attribute the success of all our goals to invaluable street outreach and landlord engagement services.

Oregon Housing and Community Services has praised Jackson County's efforts. "Jackson County is an excellent example of shared commitments across state and local government agencies and community organizations to improve people's lives," said Andrea Bell, the executive director of Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). "Today marks an important milestone as we press on for further progress. OHCS recognizes Jackson County and all who worked to make this possible for their actions and persistence in promoting housing stability within the community."

Working collaboratively and toward a common goal, Jackson County has created an effective roadmap to successfully housing those experiencing homelessness. The Jackson County Continuum of Care and the Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC) look forward to continued funding, allowing us to make even more beneficial changes in our region.

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ABOUT ACCESS

ACCESS provides food, warmth, shelter, and other essential services to Jackson County's low-income children, families, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. As the Community Action Agency of Jackson County, Oregon, ACCESS has been helping residents break the cycle of poverty since 1976. Last year, more than 70,000 people received assistance from ACCESS's broad continuum of services, including obtaining safe, affordable housing, rental assistance, utility assistance, weatherization, free loaned durable medical equipment, and healthy food.

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