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CareOregon grants to address housing insecurity

PORTLAND, Ore. — CareOregon, which serves the largest number of Medicaid recipients in the state, takes the stand that good health requires much more than clinical care. For that reason, it has awarded a total of \$300,000 in development investment grants to seven organizations focused on reducing housing insecurity this spring alone. The grants continue CareOregon's emphasis on addressing housing problems, a key goal for the CareOregon board of directors, which authorized the funding.

Through its relationships with Coordinated Care Organizations, CareOregon manages care for about 180,000 members of the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). That population is at greater risk for housing insecurity, as well as other social and economic factors that affect health.

CareOregon's spring community benefit giving additionally awarded nearly \$115,000 in nine smaller grants within the organization's core focus areas: childhood development, member and community empowerment, social determinants of health and Community Health Improvement Plan goals in its service areas.

"We focused on programs that are not only helping people with housing insecurity, but they also tend to involve the whole community in finding solutions," said Shawn DeCarlo, grant evaluation program manager.

The development investment grants include:

- **Village Coalition (Metro, Multnomah County)—\$60,000** for the Village Community Restorative Justice Training Program, working to permanently increase the amount of low-cost transitional housing in the metro area.
- **Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc. (Metro)—\$50,000** for Homeownership Retention Program, which fosters homeownership stability for low- and moderate-income homeowners age 55 and older.
- **Bridge Meadows (Metro)—\$45,000** for Building Resilience & Wellness through Intergenerational Place, Permanence and Purpose, a program to help children move from foster care to adoptive families. The grant supports staffing in North Portland and Beaverton.
- **Maybelle Center for the Community (Metro, Multnomah County)—\$45,000** for staffing support for program building connections and community in Portland's Old Town-Downtown neighborhoods.
- **Restoration House (Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization, Clatsop County)—\$40,000** to help bring Restoration House up to fire code. The Seaside housing facility is for adult men transitioning from incarceration back to their home community.

- **Northwest Pilot Project (Metro)—\$35,000** for a full-time housing case manager for extremely low-income seniors of color, in danger of displacement due to gentrification of their neighborhoods.
- **Northwest Housing Alternatives (Metro, Clackamas County)—\$25,000** to help renovate and expand Annie Ross House Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families.

The capacity investment grants are:

- **African Youth and Community Organization\$20,000**
- **The Shadow Project.....\$15,000**
- **Tucker Maxon School.....\$11,000**
- **Nursingale (Children’s Nursing Specialties)\$10,633**
- **Reading Results.....\$10,000**
- **Store To Door\$10,000**
- **AntFarm Youth Services.....\$10,000**
- **Community Partners for Affordable Housing\$7,850**

“A common factor of these grants is that they are to programs that are primarily direct services for young children and families at high risk of experiencing poor health outcomes,” DeCarlo said. “We know that if we can have a positive impact on families’ health early on, that impact will not only provide benefits now, but will continue to have benefits for them and their health for many years into the future.”

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About CareOregon

CareOregon is a nonprofit community benefits company that’s been involved in health plan services, reforms and innovations since 1994, serving Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) and Medicare members and their communities. Our mission is cultivating individual well-being and community health through shared learning and innovation. Our vision is healthy communities for all individuals, regardless of income or social circumstances. We focus on the total health of our members, not just traditional health care. By teaming up with members and their families, providers and communities, we help Oregonians live better lives, prevent illness and respond effectively to health issues.

