

1. Agency Mission

The City of Ashland is a municipality, and the City's primary mission is to maintain city facilities, such as parks, storm water and sewer systems, and streets and sidewalks. In addition, the City provides zoning and building regulations, and basic health and safety services such as law enforcement, and fire protection. All of these services are essential services provided by municipalities. However, as is the case in many municipalities, the City also supports services that promote the health and welfare of the economy, through the promotion of economic development activities, of the environment through conservation programs, and of the people, through social service funding and programs, such as senior services and housing supports. And while the City has supported services and programs to reduce instances of homelessness in the community, primarily through general fund and federal pass through grants, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the recent impacts of the wildfires the City finds itself in a situation where the citizenry is requesting that the City provide more services and resources to alleviate the issues of homelessness and maintain public health and safety for all populations. These additional requests come at a time when the City is also facing budget shortfalls and increasing community needs from every sector. The City has engaged providers of services to homeless populations and members of the faith-based community to elicit feedback on community needs, agency capacity and creative solutions. This grant application represents the culmination of those efforts, and is based on feedback from service providers and homeless advocates. So while the City's mission is not one directly related to providing services to homeless populations, the City does have a mission of providing for public safety and being responsive to the needs of the community as they arise. More so in times of increased need due to multiple community wide crises. However, as a small municipality with limited resources, the City finds the need to request additional resources to meet the current and extreme needs presented by the pandemic and recent wildfire events.

1.2 Capacity.

The City of Ashland is an entitlement jurisdiction for Community Development Block Grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and as such, is very familiar with HUD funded programs and program administration requirements. Traditionally, the City of Ashland acts solely as a grant administrator, rarely carrying out activities directly, however, due to the extreme circumstances the community has been straining under, the City has had no choice but to take on an enhanced role in order to meet the urgent needs of those most vulnerable and at risk members of the community. The City of Ashland has the staff and administrative capacity to oversee the implementation of this project. The City will be directly involved in implementing the purchase of additional pallet shelter units, but will contract with Rogue Retreat, a local non-profit organization that serves homeless populations, to oversee the campground portion of the project. Rogue Retreat is uniquely qualified to run a homeless campground, as that entity is currently running the only other homeless campground in Jackson County, located at the Northern end of Medford. The City has already purchased

three pallet shelters and is utilizing a scattered site model, by placing the shelters in the parking lot of a faith based organization which has operated an overnight parking program for homeless households with vehicles for almost two years. The overnight parking program hosted by local churches has been very successful in Ashland and was expanded at the onset of the pandemic to encourage sheltering in place for those homeless individuals who possessed vehicles. The City of Ashland has, since the beginning of the pandemic, been utilizing Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to issues arising from and related to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The City has primarily been utilizing CDBG-CV funding, to address the needs of individuals and households who were homeless or were at risk of homelessness. Funded activities were primarily aimed at providing essential services, activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impacts created by coronavirus pandemic. These activities have been carried out by subrecipients during the coronavirus outbreak in an effort to keep homeless households and individuals healthy and to reduce the risk of exposure to coronavirus and avoid or slow the spread of disease. Because best practices for address emergency shelter through ESG-CV funding and through HUD and CDC guidance requires the implementation of a non-congregate shelter strategy to reduce the spread of coronavirus. The City has been looking at ways to implement this strategy and address the City's emergency cold weather shelter needs, as well as to address the unmet needs for sheltering in place for many of the County's homeless who were displaced from their camping spots along the greenway by the Alameda fire.

1.3 Financial reporting and monitoring requirements

Because the City is an entitlement jurisdiction for CDBG funding, the City is exceedingly familiar with the federal financial and programmatic requirements of HUD funded projects. City staff in charge of overseeing the CDBG program has over 15 years of federal grant administration experience, and has educated and monitored sub-recipients on both the financial and reporting requirements of the CDBG program. City staff who will be administering this ESG-CV grant, if awarded, has also been a long time member of the Jackson County Continuum of Care and has overseen several CoC grant award, evaluation and monitoring processes. The City has been administering federal funding for over 20 years, and in that time has been monitored by HUD several times with no negative repercussions. The City of Ashland and City staff directly involved in the grant administration of this project is eminently qualified to meet all HUD required financial, reporting and monitoring requirements.

2. Project Summary

The City has identified a need for emergency non-congregate shelter for homeless populations. Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic the City and homeless service providers have struggled to provide homeless individuals and households COVID safe accommodations to self-isolate. The City provided funding to help support non-congregate sheltering in hotels and motels for those most at risk (under CDC guidelines)

for contraction of COVID-19 but these efforts were not enough to meet the expansive needs of the community. The City also helped to provide meals countywide to encourage sheltering in place for homeless households camping along the Bear Creek Greenway, the bike path that traverses Jackson County from Ashland to Grants Pass. In late summer, as fire danger increased, there was a countywide effort led by the Jackson County Continuum of Care board members, the Jackson County Sheriff's department, and the City of Medford, to open a temporary campground. In September the temporary camp was opened on the Northside of the Rogue Valley. The City of Medford's livability team and the Jackson County Sheriff's department identified homeless campers along the greenway who were willing to move into the temporary campground. However, when the Almeda fire burned large swaths of the greenway just south of Ashland in Phoenix and Talent, many of the homeless who were still camping along the greenway were displaced, unable to return to their camps. The City of Ashland in partnership with Rogue Retreat, Options for Helping Residents of Ashland and local faith based organizations is proposing a multi-pronged approach to offering non-congregate COVID safe sheltering options for homeless individuals and families. This project includes the purchase of ten additional pallet shelters some of which would be placed in a temporary sanctioned and regulated campground located on the South end of the Rogue Valley and managed by Rogue Retreat. The campground would utilize the coordinated entry and HMIS systems to identify and prioritize residents to be welcomed into the camp, as well as referrals from law enforcement and partner organizations. Rogue Retreat would oversee the camp and utilize their existing case management model to connect campers to additional community resources and work toward transitioning them to more permanent housing. The City would also like to place a few of the pallet shelters in church parking lots within the City. This portion of the proposed project is an expansion of a pilot program already underway which is a partnership between the City of Ashland and the Unitarian Church. This portion of the proposed project builds on the successful Overnight Parking Program which has been in operation for over a year in Ashland. The Overnight Parking Program with the addition of a Pallet Shelter option would allow for the placement of pallet shelters in church parking lots. Options for Helping Residents of Ashland currently registers prioritizes homeless individuals and households for available spaces in the program utilizing the coordinated entry and HMIS system. The Overnight Parking program identifies priority populations for spaces, and these priorities would remain in place for placement in a pallet shelter. The occupants of the shelters would be overseen by community volunteers and would have access to navigation services and other community resources through Options for Helping Residents of Ashland, faith based organizations and community volunteers.

The City of Ashland is the largest City on the southernmost end of the Rogue Valley, and has many desirable qualities that draw thousands of tourists and visitors each year. Homeless populations are also drawn to Ashland for these same reasons, so while Ashland has a year round population of homeless individuals and families, Ashland also sees an influx of homeless travelers and seasonal workers throughout the year. While the

vast majority of the nearly 300 homeless individuals identified in the 2020 Point in Time count identified themselves as residents of Medford, more than 20% of those counted identified themselves as residents of Ashland. Options for Helping Residents of Ashland operates a Winter shelter program which operates from November until March and is able to serve 40 individuals. Currently, the winter shelter program is at capacity and is also maintaining a wait list. Lastly, the City of Ashland allows churches to host homeless individuals and families to camp overnight in vehicles in their parking lots. Three churches participate in this program offering a total of nine overnight camping parking spots. The City expanded the number of Overnight Parking spots at the onset of the pandemic by offering spaces in City parks, with porta-potties, hand wash stations, and trash receptacles. Currently twenty-four of the thirty available spaces are being utilized. The City of Ashland has provided funding to support both the winter shelter, a pallet shelter pilot project in partnership with a local faith based group, meals serving 125 homeless individuals a day and showers serving up to 50 homeless individuals each week. The City also pays for the additional sanitation facilities needed to serve the expanded Overnight Parking program in City parks. Lastly, the City organizes and supports funds the Emergency Cold Weather shelter program, which provides emergency shelter in local buildings staffed by volunteers during times of inclement weather and extreme temperatures. This is a low barrier, no frills shelters, and has been the impetus for the City writing this grant as providing emergency COVID safe non-congregate shelters has been the biggest barrier for the community during the pandemic. However, these efforts have not been enough to meet the extreme need for shelter and housing that is COVID safe. With added pressure from the loss of housing stock, and displacement of many low-income and minority populations who were residing just South of Ashland in Phoenix and Talent, the City has been experiencing extreme pressure to provide more housing and shelter options that meet CDC best practices guidelines. Due to these extreme conditions the City has also been the target of unsheltered homeless advocates and homeless protesters who have been sleeping in the downtown plaza across from City Hall, in front of the public library, and in front of the City Council meeting chambers, demanding a place for homeless campers to camp legally and safely. And finally, the City currently has 260 displaced victims of the Almeda fire sheltering in local hotels and an additional 20 households, including households with children, who have lost housing due to Coronavirus related income loss. These populations are receiving financial assistance to continue residing in hotels from the Red Cross and the Coronavirus-Rapid Rehousing Program (CVRRP) funding, (funding that is for people whose income was impacted by the pandemic). These sources of funding are available only until the end of January, which means that the City has the potential of seeing a huge influx of newly homeless households in the coldest months of the year. None of these numbers takes into account the number of medically vulnerable homeless individuals who are either on the streets or are unstably housed. The current systems in place do not have the resources or capacity to provide safe decent and adequate shelter on this scale.

2.1 HMIS

The City of Ashland has been a member of the Jackson County Continuum of Care for several years. Until recently, John Stromberg, the Mayor of Ashland, was the CoC Board Member representing Ashland, but now that his term of office is up, Adam Hanks, the Interim City Manager has taken his place. As a grantor, the City grants funds to homeless service providers but does not provide direct services to homeless populations. Since the City does not provide any direct services to homeless populations the City does not participate directly in the HMIS system. However, the City does provide grant funds and coordinate with partner organizations that do participate in the HMIS system. For this proposed project beneficiaries of ESG-CV funding will be entered into the HMIS system through the partner organizations who will be completing the intake for the homeless campground and in some instances for the pallet shelter pilot program. Both organizations, Rogue Retreat and Options for Helping Residents of Ashland have been recipients of regular ESG funding in prior years and have participated in the HMIS system for a number of years. Both organizations have extensive experience in data entry and reporting on ESG and other HUD funded Grants. Similarly, the City of Ashland reports outcomes on HUD funded grants regularly in IDIS and while the City itself does not participate in the HMIS System the City is familiar with data entry and reporting requirements for federally funded projects.

2.2 Coordinated Entry

The City of Ashland has been a member of the Jackson County Continuum of Care for several years. As a grantor, the City grants funds to homeless service providers but does not provide direct services to homeless populations. Since the City does not provide any direct services to homeless populations the City does not participate directly in the Coordinated entry system. However, the City does provide grant funds and coordinate with partner organizations that do participate in the coordinated entry system. For this proposed project beneficiaries of ESG-CV funding will be entered into the HMIS system through the partner organizations who will be completing the intake for the homeless campground and the pallet shelter pilot program. Both organizations, Rogue Retreat and Options for Helping Residents of Ashland, have been recipients of regular ESG funding and Continuum of Care grant funding in prior years and have participated in the HMIS and coordinated entry systems for a number of years. Both organizations have been participants in the coordinated entry system and are familiar with the coordinated entry process, the assessment form and the priorities identified through the process. Similarly, the City of Ashland staff has participated in the annual Point in Time Count survey and is familiar with the Vulnerability Index used to assess beneficiaries for priority in the coordinated entry system.

2.3 ESG funding

The City of Ashland is not a direct recipient of ESG funding. However, organizations that operate within the City and in partnership with the City and as subrecipients of City funds have received ESG funding. As a long time regular board member of the Jackson County Continuum of Care the City of Ashland has had ample opportunity to work with

partner organizations to align priorities and goals around providing a comprehensive network of support services and a continuum of housing for homeless populations and those at risk of homelessness. Similarly, the City's work with community planning and outreach throughout the County in the development of regional housing plans and strategies, and with consolidated planning for the use of Community Development Block Grant funds ensures coordination with service providers, and other regional partners including the City of Medford and Access, the County's community action agency. The whole Jackson County region has a long history of successful coordination and collaboration due to the transitory nature of the County's homeless population and to the interconnectedness of the City's housing and employment sectors across municipalities. But most importantly, due to the County's limited resources and agency capacity, all service providers must engage one another and plan carefully to leverage limited resources in the face of great community need. The City of Ashland is more keenly aware of this need as the City of Ashland has far fewer resources than the City of Medford in both funding and capacity to address the needs of homeless and vulnerable populations which are often comprised of regional residents of the Southern end of the Rogue Valley, encompassing the populations of Phoenix and Talent as well as Ashland.

2.4 Racial Equity

The City of Ashland is and Entitlement Jurisdiction for CDBG funding and as such, the City is required to draft an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice also known as the AI, along with the Consolidated Plan for the use of CDBG funding every five years. [The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice](#) (AI) asks each City to undertake an assessment of racial demographics, and any barriers to minority populations freely accessing housing opportunities within a community. In addition to identification of impediments, each jurisdiction is required to develop approaches to addressing impediments that limit the ability of residents to rent or own housing regardless of their inclusion in a protected class. The methods for addressing the impediments become a Fair Housing Plan (FHP). The AI is the foundation of developing a FHP, it provides essential information to policy makers, defining a clear set of objectives with measurable results. HUD requires that the AI include; An analysis of demographic, income, housing and employment data, an evaluation of the fair housing complaints filed in the jurisdiction A discussion of impediments, if any, in 1) the sale or rental of housing, 2) provision of brokerage services, 3) financing, 4) public policies, and 5) administrative policies for housing and community development activities that affect housing choice for minorities and lastly an assessment of current fair housing resources. The City actively works to implement the recommendations to remove any barriers to fair housing choice and to promote equity and inclusion in all housing practices. In 2019 the City organized and held a fair housing training for shelter providers to educate shelter providers about their responsibilities under Fair Housing law, when seasonal cold weather shelters went to a housing first model. Similarly, the City of Ashland adopted a Social Equity and Racial Justice Resolution earlier this year which identifies action steps to address issues of social and racial equity. Where there are no articulated racial equity goals proposed

for the non-congregate sheltering project, the City must abide by all adopted racial and social equity policies in any action which is undertaken by the City. As such, this project will also be incorporating any and all social and racial justice policies adopted by the City into the policies and procedures regarding this project.

2.5 Racial Demographics

Decennial Census Data show that Ashland's population is overwhelmingly white, at 96% of the total population. The largest percentage of non-white residents identify as Asian, representing 2.1% of the population, followed by residents who identify as two or more races at 1.4% and then those who identify as African American at 1.1%. In total, minorities represent only 4% of the total population. Those residents who identify as Hispanic or Latino have increased steadily to represent 5.1% of the total population. Ashland has become more diverse (with the exception of American Indian/Alaska Native) over the last few decades, but all non-white races/ethnicities still only represent a very small percentage of the total population. However, Point in Time Count data for both the County and for the City of Ashland show that minority populations are disproportionately represented among those counted. While all minority populations make up just 4% of the total population according to Census data, 2018 PIT count data shows that 14% of homeless survey respondents identified as a minority and in the 2019 PIT count 16% of homeless survey respondents identified as a minority. Since the fire the City has seen an influx of fire victims from Phoenix and Talent, and many of the housing lost to the fire and the populations displaced by the fires identified as latinx.

How do historically underserved populations learn about ESG-CV

Both Rogue Retreat and Options for Helping Residents of Ashland have been strengthening partnerships with organizations that serve minority populations in the Rogue Valley while also increasing agency capacity to serve minority populations, especially the Latinx population, through the addition of bilingual/bicultural staff. The City and OHRA have been posting and distributing information about Coronavirus related funding and resources in English and in Spanish on printed and posted advertising materials. Lastly, the City and OHRA have been conducted outreach and have been engaging with the four organizations within Jackson County that serve the Latinx populations, Unete, Northwest Seasonal Workers, Unite Oregon, and La Clinica. The City and OHRA have already partnered with these community organizations around the issues of rent relief and the eviction moratorium. City staff has a close working relationship with La Clinica, a local Federally Qualified Health Clinic and with Unite Oregon. La Clinica has been serving homeless populations in Ashland with its mobile health clinic for several years and has specifically been partnering with Rogue Retreat to provide services to homeless populations on the Greenway and at the Campground since the onset of the pandemic. Unite Oregon has worked over the years to provide health care and affordable housing information to minority populations and over the years City staff has partnered with Unite Oregon to provide education and resources.

Marketing

The City and OHRA have been posting information on social media and distributing information in print and on websites about Coronavirus related funding and resources in English and in Spanish. The City and OHRA have been communicating regularly with the four organizations within Jackson County that serve the Latinx populations, Unete, Northwest Seasonal Workers, Unite Oregon, and La Clinica. The City and OHRA have already partnered with these community organizations around the issues of rent relief and the eviction moratorium and have established relationships. The City would use these same channels to make sure that information about available community resources are presented in culturally appropriate ways, and through the most appropriate channels to reach underserved populations throughout the County. City staff maintains close relationships with La Clinica, with Unite Oregon and is able to engage with these organizations to help provide marketing and outreach to minority populations to ensure equitable access.

Covid Specific response

This Project is being proposed directly as a result of the urgent need to respond to the unique problems caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, and as a way to prevent the continued spread of the virus to vulnerable populations of both the homeless needing shelter and the volunteers, who are primarily comprised of seniors, who traditionally provide services. For many years the City of Ashland has addressed emergency shelter through a congregate model staffed by community volunteers. This model allowed the City to offer sheltering during the coldest times of the year with very little in City resource contributions. The pandemic made this model unworkable, and created a labor and facility vacuum that consumed large amounts resources from both the City and regional service providers to fill. The proposed project is an effort to both respond to the pandemic and to prevent further spread of the virus among vulnerable populations.

2.6 Street Outreach

Currently the City relies on a network of volunteer and non-volunteer service providers to complete outreach to those living on the streets and to help project beneficiaries move to permanent housing. The City of Ashland is a relatively small town and since the onset of the pandemic three entities have been providing meals in place of previously offered community meals. These three entities deliver 125 meals a day throughout the City. Two of the entities are volunteer groups who have been providing meals to the homeless for the past several year and have become familiar with many of the regular homeless population in Ashland. Options for Helping Residents of Ashland has become the default resource hub for the City of Ashland and for those on the South end of the Valley. During the pandemic when many agencies and service providers had to close their offices to the public, OHRA remained open, often offering the only way for homeless and vulnerable populations to access any mainstream social service resources. Because the libraries were closed many people who relied on library for computer and internet access had to turn to OHRA to gain access to essential state programs such as emergency SNAP

assistance, unemployment benefits and replacement identification card replacement. Since the onset of the pandemic OHRA has seen more than double the regular volume of visitors to their resource center each day. Because OHRA also runs the Winter Shelter program, those needing shelter will often approach OHRA to find out about available shelter beds and other resources. Lastly, the City is coordinating with an emergency inclement weather shelter volunteer group, a group of emergency shelter hosts which includes several formerly homeless individuals who are dedicated to making sure that a low-barrier shelter is available to keep people from freezing to death. Finally, the City of Ashland, much like other cities, relies heavily on the Police Department as the main street outreach resource. Community service officers and park patrol officers often interface with the homeless population and are able to form relationships of trust with them. Community police men and women are often able to direct homeless populations to the resources that they need.

2.7 Population and number served

The City is proposing this project to meet the unmet need for emergency non-congregate shelter. The City originally conceived of this project as a solution to offering a non-congregate emergency inclement weather shelter, a need which is currently not met within the community. Options for Helping Residents of Ashland currently offers a congregate Winter Shelter program. That Winter Shelter, which currently houses 40 people, will be closing at the end of March, the community is also anticipated end of Red Cross and State funding which is allowing 260 households to be temporarily sheltered in hotels throughout the City. It is unknown whether additional funding will be allocated to continue providing non-congregate sheltering for these vulnerable households. The most recent Point in Time Count shows that the City has a regular winter population of homeless that consists of around 60 individuals. The last Point in Time count obviously did not account for those displaced by issues related to the Pandemic, or by the wildfire events. Due to these events the City is anticipating an influx of homeless and newly homeless populations that are not usually in Ashland at this time of the year. Those homeless individuals and households who were residing on the Greenway along the Bear Creek between Phoenix and Ashland whose campsites were burned and are now unable to return are expected to relocate to other areas along the greenway. We do not know at this time the full impact of those populations on the City's resources at this time.

3.1 Emergency Shelter

This project includes the purchase of ten additional pallet shelters some of which would be placed in a temporary sanctioned and regulated campground located on the South end of the Rogue Valley and managed by Rogue Retreat. The campground would utilize the HMIS system to identify and prioritize residents to be welcomed into the camp. Rogue Retreat would oversee the camp and utilize their existing case management model to connect campers to additional community resources and work toward transitioning them to more permanent housing. The City would also like to place a few of the pallet shelters in church parking lots within the City. This is portion of the proposed project is an

expansion of a pilot program already underway which is a partnership between the City of Ashland and the Unitarian Church. This portion of the proposed project builds on an existing successful Overnight Parking Program which has been in operation for over a year in Ashland. The Overnight Parking Program with the addition of a Pallet Shelter option would allow for the placement of pallet shelters in scattered sites throughout the City, which promotes community integration and lessens the impact on any one neighborhood. Options for Helping Residents of Ashland currently registers homeless individuals and families for available spaces in the program. The Overnight Parking program identifies priority populations utilizing HMIS and Coordinated Entry systems, and these priorities would remain in place for priority in a pallet shelter. The occupants of the shelters would be overseen by community volunteers and would have access to navigation services and other community resources through Options for Helping Residents of Ashland, faith based partners, and community volunteers. Both the campground and the scattered site pallet shelter program will follow all State of Oregon Health Authority and Federal Center for Disease Control social distancing guidelines and sanitation practices. Because these shelters will be non-congregate in nature, the guidelines will primarily apply to common areas and to the placement of shelters. Rogue Retreat has been successfully running a campground in Medford while practicing social distancing and COVID safe practices. The City and Rogue Retreat have COVID safe cleaning protocols in place for the transfer of pallet shelters from one household to the other. The City's cleaning protocols are those established by the Oregon Health Authority for non-congregate sheltering.

3.2 Leverage

The City is already leveraging City general fund Housing Trust Fund money to support the current Pallet Shelter Pilot program, as well as for the Inclement Weather Shelters that are stood up in times of extreme weather conditions. Similarly, the City provided Community Development Block Grant funding to purchase three pallet shelters and is currently providing Community Development Block grant funding to support the Winter Shelter program offered by Options for Helping Residents of Ashland. CDBG funding is also being utilized to support Peace House, a local non-profit organization that formerly ran a weekly community meal, to provide hot meals to the Winter shelter and to those unsheltered households on the street. Lastly, the City is providing funding from the Housing Trust Fund to support non-congregate sheltering in hotels for homeless youth and families enrolled in the Ashland School District, and non-congregate sheltering in hotels for those homeless individuals and households with an increased risk for COVID infection as defined by CDC guidelines. The City is also seeking reimbursement for City general fund supported non-congregate sheltering. The City will not seek FEMA reimbursement for this proposed project as ESG funding would not be eligible for reimbursement, however, the City is contributing staff time to the development and administration of this project, and leveraging CDBG administrative funding as well as City general funding for staff.

3.3 Rapid Re-Housing and permanent placement in the HMIS System

The Jackson County Continuum of Care has worked very diligently over the past several years to streamline regional coordination and build capacity at all levels of the housing continuum. Through those efforts the County has managed to create housing options at many different levels of the housing continuum, from the newly established homeless campground, to the construction of over 100 new units of affordable housing currently under construction. However, the pandemic and wildfires have increased the need in the Rogue Valley for housing at every level of the continuum beyond the need that was already at crisis levels. For this proposed project the City is coordinating with two well established and experienced providers of services to homeless populations in Jackson County, Rogue Retreat, and Options for Helping Residents of Ashland (OHRA). Both Rogue Retreat and OHRA have been participating in the coordinated entry and HMIS systems for several years. Both organizations have successfully moved unhoused individuals and families into more permanent housing options through case management and navigation services with the support of regional community partners. This work was difficult before the pandemic and wildfires, but even with the increased difficulty both organizations have been able to move people through the continuum of housing from living on the streets to permanent stable housing successfully. Providing an additional point of entry for those on the streets will allow these organizations to reach more of the County's most vulnerable citizens and move them from homelessness to housing more easily.

3.4 Who will this project serve and your estimated service numbers for individuals and households.

The City is proposing this project to meet the unmet need for emergency non-congregate shelter. The City is proposing to begin this project once funding is awarded. The opening of the campground and dispersed sheltering will coincide with the closing of the OHRA Winter shelter program which currently houses 40 people. This will also coincide with the anticipated end of Red Cross and State funding which is paying for 260 households to shelter in hotels throughout the City. The most recent Point in Time Count shows that the City has a regular winter population of homeless that consists of around 60 individuals. Many of these individuals have co-occurring mental health and addiction issues and are some of the hardest populations to serve in traditional homeless programs, as these populations have the most barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing. Currently the homeless campground in Medford is providing shelter for 45 unhoused individuals. The City of Medford Livability Team patrols the City's section of the Greenway and downtown Medford and makes referrals to homeless individuals and households for available spots in the homeless campground. The Livability team also works with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department regarding homeless individuals and households elsewhere in the County who are needing a safe and sanitary place to camp. However, despite the addition of the 45 campground spaces, the City of Medford Livability Team is seeing an increase in the number of people camping along the

Greenway. These increased numbers may be due to increased homelessness brought on by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic as well as homeless individuals and households displaced by the Alameda fire. As the Rogue Valley has a population of homeless that migrates along the Greenway, the City also expects to serve many in the homeless community who may not have identified themselves as residents of Ashland in the most recent Point in Time count, but, never the less, rely on services offered in Ashland, and certainly would avail themselves of a safe and sanitary legal place to camp and sleep overnight if one were available in Ashland. At this point, service providers know that the number of homeless people who need a home is still very large. Due to the unpredictable nature of the Coronavirus pandemic and the impacts of the Alameda fire the City is also anticipating seeing an influx of homeless and newly homeless populations that are not usually in Ashland at this time of the year. Those homeless who were residing on the Greenway along the Bear Creek between Phoenix and Ashland whose campsites were destroyed and are unable to return, as well as those who usually consider themselves to be residents of Medford may be redirected to services in Ashland as the need throughout the county is much greater than was captured in the 2020 Point in Time Count.

4. Homeless Service System Collaboration

The City has been in consultation with the regional CoC, The Jackson County Continuum of Care, regarding this application. (Please see support letter attached as exhibit A). The City has long been a member of the Jackson County Continuum of Care, and is more aware than most entities of the need to facilitate coordination to maximize scarce resources and capacity, more so in this time of pandemic and wildfires than ever before. The City of Ashland is no stranger to the efficient utilization of resources to prevent and end homelessness, the City has traditionally had only one entity to serve homeless populations, and for a number of years, had no local service providers. Over the years the City has supported homeless services through its limited allocation of CDBG funding, through general fund grants, and most often through support of community volunteers and faith based organizations. Due to the rural nature to Jackson County, and the limited resources to address homeless issues, providers of services to homeless populations have a long history of collaboration and partnership. Through the Jackson County Homeless Task Force, a homeless resource networking group and subcommittee of the Jackson County Continuum of Care, and the CoC itself, homeless providers communicate and coordinate services regularly. Due to the increased and urgent needs arising from the pandemic, and the wildfires, coordination and partnerships have only strengthened and increased. This proposed project will coordinate with regional partners through the CoC, the coordinated entry and the HMIS Systems. Both Rogue Retreat and OHRA regularly communicate with the City of Ashland regarding needs and activities, and all entities communicate regularly with the CoC manager, Connie Wilkerson. As there are very few resources within the County, all service providers must coordinate in order to be effective. Consequently, all service providers work with each other regularly, and with

grantors such as the Cities of Medford and Ashland, Access, Jackson County's Community Action Agency pass through organization for the regular ESG funding. Lastly, state and private agencies rely on service providers to address homeless population needs that are outside of their missions and regulatory abilities to address. These needs are often linked to the social determinants of health, such as housing and access to sanitation facilities. It takes all members of the CoC to address the wide ranging multiple barriers experienced by many of the County's homeless.

4.1 Collaboration with other agencies

The proposed activity is a unique collaboration of several entities already deeply involved in the COVID response system. The City of Ashland, Rogue Retreat, Options for Helping Residents of Ashland, and Unitarian Universalist Church of Ashland will all collaborate to offer an innovative new approach to providing needed emergency shelter and essential services at the South end of Jackson County. The Jackson County Continuum of Care has been deeply involved with Jackson County public health and with the Coordinated Care organizations serving Jackson County, All Care and Jackson Care Connect, as well as all of the providers of emergency shelter services since the beginning of the pandemic. Both the Cities of Ashland and Medford, have also been instrumental in providing emergency services in response to the COVID pandemic. The City's both received CDBG-CARES act funding, and worked with the CoC, and CoC members like Jackson County Public health, and the Sheriff's department, as well as local providers of health services, such as La Clinica, and Jackson County mental health to address the needs of homeless populations. These partnerships will continue and will be strengthened should this project move forward. This project also engages members of the faith community, and other community volunteer groups interested in making sure that the homeless population in Jackson County remains healthy and safe through the pandemic.