
BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

5:00p.m. Hybrid: in person (601 State St., Hood River, OR) and via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS**
3. **CONFLICT OR POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**
4. ***PUBLIC COMMENT** (Registration required. Limit 3 minutes per person)
5. **CONSENT**
 - A. [Grant Opportunity - Justice Reinvestment Program](#)
RECOMMENDATION: Approve Probation & Parole's grant application authorizing Chair Euwer to sign the letter of support and grant opportunity form.
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. [FY 25/26 Budget Strategy](#)
RECOMMENDATION: Review the budget strategy memo and recommend direction to staff.
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION - ORS 192.660(2)(d) - Labor negotiations** (Commissioners, Legal Counsel, news media and select staff only)
 - A. [ORS 192.660\(2\)\(d\) - Labor negotiations](#)
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

DATE: April 8, 2025 **DEPARTMENT:** Administration **NAME:** Sophie Christenson

SUBJECT: Grant Opportunity - Justice Reinvestment Program

AUTHORITY: *ORS:* *OAR:*

COUNTY ORD:

BACKGROUND:

On behalf of the county's LPSCC, Parole & Probation is applying for the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program for the 25-27 biennium. The application timeline changed significantly this year as the Preliminary Application is due April 18, 2025, at 1pm. It should be noted, there will be no programmatic changes from the 2023-2025 grant award, this grant will continue to support short-term housing (two motel rooms at Lone Pine), a peer mentor, and NORCOF Re-Entry Programs.

ATTACHMENTS: [Letter of Support - Justice Reinvestment Program.doc](#)
[Grant Opp Form - JRP.pdf](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY AFFECTED PARTIES:

COUNTY COUNSEL *FINANCE* *OTHER AGENCIES* *ADMIN*
HR DEPT *APPROPRIATE COUNTY COMMITTEE* *OTHER*

ADMINISTRATION SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve Probation & Parole's grant application authorizing Chair Euwer to sign the letter of support and grant opportunity form.

FOLLOW UP:

COPIES TO:



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

601 State Street · Hood River, OR 97031 · (541) 386-3970 · FAX (541) 386-9392

Jennifer Euwer – Chair
Leticia Moretti – District No. 1
Arthur Babitz – District No. 2
Ed Weathers – District No. 3
Chad Muenzer – District No. 4

April 8, 2025

Ken Sanchagrin, Executive Director
Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
885 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97031

Dear Director Sanchagrin,

I am writing on behalf of Hood River County in support of the County's Justice Reinvestment programs. These initiatives aim to reduce recidivism, hold offenders accountable, and enhance public safety, while also decreasing the county's reliance on incarceration in Department of Corrections facilities.

The Hood River County Board of Commissioners recognizes Oregon's need to reduce prison populations while not compromising community safety. The collaborative efforts of the entities in these programs should have a positive effect on the community.

On behalf of the Hood River County Board of Commissioners, I appreciate your consideration and ask for your support and approval for Hood River County's application for the Justice Reinvestment Grant Funding for 2025-2027 to better serve our community.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Euwer, Chair
Hood River County Board of Commissioners



Funding Opportunity Form

Please complete and submit this form to the Budget & Finance Department. The Grants Manager will facilitate a pre-application meeting with the County Administrator and Department Head to review the project and fit. ([HRC Admin Code Section 4-A](#))

Section I: Funding Opportunity Information – To be completed by Requester

Grant Program: Justice Reinvestment Program

Grant Agency: Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

Link to Program Guidelines: <https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/jri/Pages/default.aspx>

Federal Assistance Listing Number: n/a

Award Type: Formula **Funding Source:** State

Application Deadline: 7/16/2025 **Program Start:** 7/1/2025 **Program End:** 8/31/2027

Department: Parole & Probation **Applicant/Program Manager:** Jamie Hepner

Description of the project:

The Justice Reinvestment Program (JRP) funds initiatives that assess individuals and provide a continuum of community-based sanctions, services, and programs to reduce recidivism and state prison usage, while maintaining public safety and accountability.

Will this project be administered by another entity (e.g. MCEDD)? No Yes _____

Will any funds be passed through to other organizations? No Yes At least 10% to nonprofits that support crime victims

Section II: Project Budget Information – To be completed by Requester

Are there any match requirements? No Yes _____

Does the funding opportunity provide an indirect cost rate? No Yes _____

Item/Activity	Grant Funds	County Budget Match	Total
			\$ 0.00
			\$ 0.00
			\$ 0.00
			\$ 0.00
			\$ 0.00
			\$ 0.00
			\$ 0.00
Total Project Cost			\$ 0.00

The template should be used as a summary of costs. Please attach a detailed budget that will be submitted with the application.

Detailed budget attached? Yes No **Funding will be determined after the FY25-27 Legislative Session.**

Section III: Additional Questions – To be completed by Requester

Is this grant budgeted? No Yes, Revenue Code: 101-0901-334-10-51

Does this grant fund an existing program or project? No Yes _____

Will the funding opportunity require hiring additional staff? No Yes This funding will support future peer mentors in the Deflection program

Are there additional funding sources available to fund this program? No Yes _____

Will this funding opportunity include procurement above \$10,000? Yes No

Will this funding opportunity include procurement above \$75,000? Yes No

Will this funding opportunity include construction, alteration, or repair above \$2,000? Yes No

What other County Departments will collaborate on this project? None

IV: Grants Manager Review

Form Reviewed Pre-Application Meeting Held Expedited Approval Process Yes No

V: Grant Pre-Application Meeting Review

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Modernize Financial Stability Housing Economic Growth Communications Forest Management

Are there County planning documents that support this program? Yes No

Does this project support the Department’s mission and goals? Yes No

Does the Department have adequate staff to administer this grant? Yes No

Are there any community partners who might be better suited for this work? Yes No

How will other County Departments and Budgets be affected by this project?

Deflection program receive funds from this program to support a peer mentor. Full budget is known by July 16.

What are the objectives of this funding opportunity, and how will the County meet these objectives?

Objectives are to reduce recidivism and decreasing state prison usage while protecting public safety. Peer mentors will work with clients on their individual needs to accomplish the objectives.

What are the long-term implications of the project? (Reporting, additional fund sourcing, etc.)

Funds are distributed with each biennium and need to be applied for every two years. Regular reporting is required. Total funding will be over \$150,000, but the exact amount is not known until after the FY25-27 Legislative Session.

Other information to consider:

Preliminary application and competitive application opt-in with letters of support from BOC and LPSCC and statement of commitment from DA, Presiding Judge, and Director of Community Corrections due April 18. Final Application due July 16. Award decision September 2025.

Section V: Approval Workflow

Funding Opportunity Determination: _____

The following signatures are required before application is submitted.

For all applications:

DocuSigned by:

97011F1E3FB2496...
Budget & Finance Director

Signed by:

9B72D3BC6736449...
County Administrator

For applications requesting funds above \$150,000 and/or match requirements above \$20,000:

Board of Commissioners Chair

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

DATE: April 8, 2025 **DEPARTMENT:** Administration **NAME:** Sophie Christenson

SUBJECT: FY 25/26 Budget Strategy

AUTHORITY: *ORS:* *OAR:*

COUNTY ORD:

BACKGROUND:

In preparing for the 2025-2026 budget process, the Board of Commissioners has requested a special meeting to discuss budget strategy. In order to inform the discussion, staff provides a policy framework for discussion, see attached.

ATTACHMENTS: [2025-2026 budget strategy discussion.docx](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY AFFECTED PARTIES:

COUNTY COUNSEL *FINANCE* *OTHER AGENCIES* *ADMIN*
HR DEPT *APPROPRIATE COUNTY COMMITTEE* *OTHER*

ADMINISTRATION SUGGESTED ACTION:

Review the budget strategy memo and recommend direction to staff.

FOLLOW UP:

COPIES TO:

2025-2026 Budget Strategy Discussion

In preparing for the 2025-2026 budget process, the Board of Commissioners has requested a special meeting to discuss budget strategy. In order to inform the discussion, staff provides a policy framework for discussion.

For the purposes of definition: A budget is a financial plan that includes estimates of expenditures and revenues for the coming fiscal year. Budgets are also a tool that communicates the priorities of the Board of Commissioners and the alignment with the County's Strategic Plan. The County Commission has an adopted strategic plan for 2021-2026 which was updated in 2023 and it identified several actions to achieve the goals. The county has made significant progress since the adoption of the strategic plan, a credit to past boards and administration, and this budget continues those investments.

Following are the Vision, Mission, Values and Goals as stated in the strategic plan:

Hood River County	Strategic Plan 2021 – 2026 Goals
Vision	A Small County with a Big Mission: Providing Quality of Life for All
Mission	Excellence in Governance Providing the Foundational Services to Support a Safe Place to Live, Work and Plan
Values	Service * Sustainability * Trust * Communication * Equity
Goals	
In order prioritized by the Board of Commissioners	Modernize the county organization, internal systems for effective, efficient and resilient services
	Foster financial stability and strength
	Increase housing diversity and affordability
	Support economic growth and high-quality job generation
	Enhance communications and engagement efforts internally and externally
	Adapt the Forest Management Plan to meet current and future needs

In approaching this budget cycle, the management team was particularly interested in ensuring that the county's limited resources were focused on shoring up the county's backbone for the critical services the county provides. In addition, the management team followed past budgetary principles, and administration considered budget requests that would help achieve resilient backbone services, in short, the following consideration was given:

- New positions should come with additional revenue sources, or the potential for revenue
- New programs should be proposed with new and recurring revenues
- The County overall is in need of modernization, and as the county approaches future work investments are made in new positions with an eye toward new county capacity/revenues and strengthening the county's backbone first
- Centralization of services that have been siloed and potentially duplicated thus costing the county more
- Continuing adherence to curing past audit deficiencies

In evaluating budget asks, administration looked to staffing or initiatives that could influence the future revenues of the county, projects/programs that augmented county services. Hood River County should be proud of its history of innovation and forward thinking as some of the following efforts begin to yield results:

- Completion of and initiation of planning efforts that will yield housing to support all county residents (Odell Unincorporated Community Plan, initiation of county-wide ADU work)
- Hood River County Carbon Credit program implementation
- Investment in property assessment to ensure that the cycle of reappraisals can be completed yielding additional property tax revenues for the county and all county taxing districts
- Enhanced leadership in Technology Services to help streamline the county's technology backbone and eliminate duplication of services

Along with this progress, there are long-term challenges that need to be addressed:

- Balancing the cost of public safety with other required county services
- Identifying capital funds for county facilities and roads/bridge infrastructure needs
- Maintaining a desired level of service across the county based on feedback coming through the 2026-2031 Strategic Planning process
- Maintaining non-mandated services that are a benefit to the county's economy like the forestry recreation program

The proposed budget will benefit from the passage of Public Safety Levy 14-82 which reauthorizes the .78/1000 levy for the next five years, but the proposed budget will reflect a challenging fiscal environment due to the county's limited revenues, statewide increases in PERS premiums, and a challenging state and federal funding environment which have put pressure on contingencies and unappropriated ending fund balance percentages.

For example in this year's proposed general fund budget we are considering:

Personnel Services increases of 13% year over year, much due to increases in PERS, and two new positions.

Materials and Services increase: 3%

One-time expenses are recommended to be considered to ensure that the Odell Unincorporated Community Plan work continues to completion and work can begin on the county-wide ADU code.

The 10-year average for forestry receipts is down and the timber salvage transfer is down.

Property tax revenues are budgeted conservatively at a 3% increase, and in thinking about the overall county expenses in the general fund, property taxes only make up approximately 35% of the county's general fund revenues, creating a difficult matrix of funding streams needed to carry out basic services. In addition, we are considering outside requests from the History Museum, OSU Extension and USDA Wildlife Services.

Staff recommendation: BOC consideration of budget strategy memo and recommended direction for staff.

AGENDA REQUEST FORM

DATE: April 8, 2025 **DEPARTMENT:** Human Resources **NAME:** Sophie Christenson

SUBJECT: ORS 192.660(2)(d) - Labor negotiations

AUTHORITY: *ORS:* *OAR:*

COUNTY ORD:

BACKGROUND:

ORS 192.660(2)(d) - Labor negotiations

ATTACHMENTS:

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