



**DRAFT**

## Marion County 2017 Federal Agenda

---

### GRANT PROJECTS

#### ***North Canyon Economic Distress Relief Plan***

***\$15 million***

The Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 authorized \$15 million to support the Economic Development Plan for the Opal Creek Wilderness and Scenic Recreation Area. The bill designated the State of Oregon to develop an Economic Opportunity Plan, detailing the best uses of the \$15 million. That plan was completed in 2000 and submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture by Governor Kitzhaber. However, funds to implement the economic development plan as promised were never delivered.

In 2014, communities in the Upper North Santiam Canyon updated the original plan, which Governor Kate Brown resubmitted. The objective is to secure up to \$15 million, as authorized in the original 1996 legislation. In the meantime, however, the community is not sitting idly by. Canyon communities continue to collaborate and seek opportunities through federal state grant and loan programs to revitalize the region. Progress has been made a number of fronts, including securing funds for transportation improvements and planning for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure projects in the Canyon.

#### ***Marion County Reentry Initiative —Transitional Housing Project***

***\$1.2 million***

Marion County is seeking federal funds to support Transitional Housing within the Marion County Reentry Initiative (MCRI), a project that has been a vision for more than seven years. Transitional housing will serve medium to high risk males with a focus on chronically homeless, mentally ill and clients with co-occurring disorders. It will create and expand responsive, evidence-based wraparound services that meet the individual needs of offenders reentering Marion County communities. Staff will provide supervision and assure that clients have access to transportation and medical care, attend classes and appointments, and use their time in structured activities.

Marion County is requesting a waiver from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to utilize HUD Section 32 resources in order to finance the Transitional Housing Project. The request is now under final review. If the waiver is approved, Marion County could proceed on the construction of a facility that would house up to 24 medium to high risk offenders.

#### ***Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative***

***\$100,000***

To help address some of the fundamental issues facing the homeless population, local city and county leaders have joined forces to establish the Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative. The initiative has generated solutions in areas related to the lack of affordable housing; best practices for reducing chronic homelessness; current available services; impacts on public safety and business; and potential revenue sources. Contributing factors such as mental illness, addiction, lack of education and the need for transportation, as well as the challenges of unique populations such as youth and/or veterans are addressed in the initiative's strategic plan. Partners are exploring

federal funding through the U.S. Department of Housing, Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Justice to provide assistance for this population.

### **Mental Health Court Service Expansion**

**\$300,000**

Marion County is seeking federal funds to expand its mental health court and integrate physical and mental health addictions treatment to serve indigent and uninsured members of the community. In collaboration with the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Health Department, District Attorney's Office and Circuit Court, a county mental health court was launched in December 2006. The Sheriff's Office has developed Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to educate law enforcement on mental illness and a Crisis Outreach Response Team (CORT), which includes a deputy and a qualified mental health professional to provide outreach to mentally ill people who have frequent contact with law enforcement and two Mobile Crisis Response Teams, which pair a deputy and a qualified mental health professional to respond to calls in progress involving a mental health component. These programs are grant dependent with limited resources, so they are restricted to persons with insurance coverage. Since individuals most at risk of reoffending are persons with untreated mental illness and are frequently indigent with no resources to access care, funding is critical for the successful continuation of these programs.

Marion County approved a resolution to join the **Stepping Up Initiative**: a nationwide initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. Through the Stepping Up Initiative, Marion County hopes to leverage comprehensive resources to assess, develop and implement a plan to better serve and care for its mentally ill population.

### **Salem River Crossing Project**

**\$430 million (total estimate)**

Marion County is partnering with the City of Salem, City of Keizer, Polk County and the Oregon Department of Transportation in support of the Salem River Crossing Project. The Willamette River is a major travel barrier between the east and west sides of Salem, as well as between Interstate 5 and the Oregon Coast. Due to significant growth in the metropolitan area, both bridges are operating near capacity and the connecting streets are over capacity. Without additional transportation capacity across the Willamette River, the levels of congestion on the bridges and connecting streets in downtown Salem and West Salem are forecast to worsen. Analyses estimate the total cost of the Salem Alternative at \$430 million, which can be constructed in four phases. The Oversight Team is working with community leaders and local elected officials to explore state and local funding sources.

## **POLICY PRIORITIES**

**Investment Package – Infrastructure Spending** - President-Elect Donald Trump has proposed a ten-year, \$1 trillion investment package to create American jobs and stimulate economic development. To date, the Trump plan relies on tax credits and public-private partnerships (P3s), not government spending, to spur infrastructure investment. For transportation projects, this generally means building toll roads and bridges. Marion County supports including federal spending within the investment package to ensure we address the growing transportation, water and other infrastructure backlog in our community and communities around the country.

**Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization** – Marion County strongly supports a long-term reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Of the approximately 750,000 acres of land in Marion County, 206,000 acres (or 27%) constitute land that is owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service. In fiscal year 2015 Marion County received a total of \$2,036,760 in SRS funding. Stabilizing and regulating funds from these national forest lands is a priority for Marion County as it grapples with unemployment and the economic downturn.

- ◆ **SRS Patrol and Equipment** - Marion County strongly supports SRS Title III reimbursement for sheriff patrol, training and equipment on federal lands. Patrol expenditures were prohibited with the release of a 2012 GAO report to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Limiting the ability of counties to use

Title III funds for patrol has increased criminal activity on federal lands and stretches the resources of sheriffs' offices to unsustainable levels. Because of the prohibition, Marion County has reduced its patrol presence from three to zero on federal lands.

***Support Responsible, Sustainable Solutions for the O&C Lands*** – The 2.4 million acres of O&C forest lands are of critical importance to the health of communities across 18 Western Oregon counties. Marion County supports a timely, responsible and sustainable plan for the O&C lands that provides legal certainty and will revive timber production generating economic growth, jobs and financial stability to these counties.

***Support Second Chance Act Reauthorization and Funding*** – Marion County supports the bipartisan *Second Chance Reauthorization Act*, which would provide \$100 million each fiscal year. Marion County has a long and successful history protecting public safety and reducing crime recidivism rates through Second Chance Act funding. The Second Chance Act ensures that tax dollars on corrections are better spent, and provides a much-needed response to the “revolving door” of people entering and leaving prison and jail.

***COPS Technology Funding*** – Marion County supports funding for police equipment, including restoration of COPS Technology Grants that were eliminated in 2009. There are very few funding options at the federal level to help police departments purchase equipment despite the fact that federal mandates continue to require costly upgrades. The COPS Technology Program would allow Marion County to pursue competitive grant funding for the replacement of its \$1.5 million Police and Jail Records Management System.

***Protect EDA, EPA Brownfield, CDBG, TIGER, BYRNE Justice Assistance Programs, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and USDA Rural Development Community Facilities and Water Programs*** – Marion County supports maintaining funding levels for these critical infrastructure and public safety programs.

***Repeal Inmate Exception for Federal Health Benefits*** – The law prohibits county governments from billing federal programs for the health services provided to jail inmates prior to adjudication. Marion County supports federal legislation that would repeal the inmate exception for those in custody pending disposition of charges.

***Waste-to-Energy - Development of a Clean Energy Standard*** – Marion County supports development of a Clean Energy Standard that includes Waste-to-Energy (WTE) receiving full, Tier 1 renewable energy credits for both existing facilities and new developments or expansions. The county does not support any reductions or stipulations based upon the breakdown of whether the fuel comes from anthropogenic/biogenic carbon sources.

### ***Regulatory Concerns***

***Waste-to-Energy*** – As EPA develops carbon Pollution Standards for Existing Power Plants, it is critical that EPA recognize the long standing international treatment of WTE as a greenhouse gas mitigation technology and that WTE be included in the compliance "toolbox."

***Waters of the U.S.*** – Marion County is concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed rule released by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that would amend the definition of “waters of the U.S.” and expand the range of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction. Marion County urges the agencies to withdraw the rule until further analysis on potential impacts has been completed.

***National Flood Insurance Program*** – A recent National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological opinion concluded that FEMA must change its implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in Oregon to better protect endangered species within floodplains. NMFS's recommendations, as written, would require FEMA to go above and beyond its legal authority, amending and issuing new regulations that would subject 251 of 271 NFIP participating communities in Oregon to excessively restrictive floodplain development standards.

**Reopen and Restore the Willamette Falls Locks** – Marion County urges the Army Corps of Engineers to repair and reopen the Willamette Falls Locks so that the locks may continue to be an economic, recreational and historic driver to the region. The Locks bridge the upper and lower stretches of the Willamette River, without which the Willamette becomes two disconnected rivers for navigation purposes. The Locks were operated safely under a reduced schedule until November 2011, when an inspection discovered the gates were in danger of fracture and could not be safely operated. [Waiting for updated language]

**Support Federal Designation of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area** – The Willamette Falls Area is an important nexus of the geologic formation created by the Missoula Floods, including the Willamette Meteorite and the foundation of the unmatched fertility of the Willamette Valley. The industrialization of the Falls Area was the birthplace of industry in the American Northwest, and the Willamette River and Falls continue to be an important transportation hub for tourism, commerce and recreation. Marion County understands that this designation will not impact the transportation on the Willamette River, specifically ferry boats and the need for future dredging of the river to ensure safe crossing. [Waiting for updated language]

### **Affordable Care Act**

**Protect Medicaid Expansion and 1115 Waiver** – In 2016, Oregon submitted a request to renew the state’s Medicaid waiver, which expires in the summer of 2017. The 1115 waiver has provided flexibility that has been a catalyst for Oregon’s health care reforms. Under the waiver and through Medicaid expansion, Oregon’s uninsured rate has dropped from 15 percent to 5 percent in the past five years. At present, 95 percent of Oregon adults and 98 percent of children have health coverage. **This has been of particular importance to Marion County’s justice reinvestment initiative, as single, low-income individuals were not eligible for health care benefits prior to Medicaid expansion.** The vast majority of people reentering the community from incarceration, along with many people experiencing chronic homelessness, were not eligible for health benefits because Medicaid was limited to defined populations, such as people with disabilities and parents with children. New provisions in the proposed waiver would also allow Oregon to augment resources for supportive housing to address chronic homelessness which is a significant issue in Marion County.

It is uncertain how repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will impact Oregon’s Medicaid program. Block grants could provide the state with additional flexibility. However, significant federal funding reductions and excluding Oregon’s expansion population will certainly create hardships for newly-covered Oregonians and will require county and nonprofit treatment programs relying on those funds to reduce services. Oregon has a long history of bipartisan health care reform. Governor Brown said, “We stand ready to work with Congress to make improvement necessary to ensure all Oregonians have access to affordable, high quality health care coverage.”

**Support Legislative Efforts to Repeal the “Cadillac Tax”** – A provision in the 2010 Affordable Care Act will impose a 40% nondeductible excise tax on the amount of employer-sponsored coverage that exceeds statutorily established thresholds. It applies to all employers, public and private, and is projected to significantly impact the health coverage provided to employees. Marion County asks Congress to fully repeal this costly policy before its delayed implementation in 2018.

**Protect Municipal Bonds** – Marion County strongly supports protecting tax-exempt municipal bonds from being eliminated or limited. Since the federal income tax was instituted in 1913, interest earned from municipal bonds issued by state and local governments have been exempt from federal taxation. These bonds are the primary financing mechanism for state and local infrastructure projects, with three-quarters of the infrastructure projects in the U.S. built by state and local governments, and with more than \$3.7 trillion in outstanding tax-exempt bonds, issued by 30,000 separate government units. Local governments save an average of 25 to 30 percent on interest costs.

### **Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – Comprehensive Pay for Success (PFS) Model**

PFS is an innovative financing model that leverages philanthropic and private dollars to provide assistance up front, with the government paying after they generate results. Marion County supports establishing a comprehensive PFS pilot program within the OJJDP that would cover the full gamut of services, including feasibility analysis, transaction structuring, outcome evaluation and success payments.

### **DEVELOPMENTAL – POLICY PRIORITIES**

#### **Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)**

LEAD is a program developed in Seattle that combines police, sheriff, municipal governments and local nonprofits in case management for service-resistant individuals who have records of multiple arrests, primarily for drug possession and other “livability” crimes (but not victim-related crimes). People benefitting from LEAD typically exhibit high risk, addiction-based behavior and have multiple needs, such as homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, and mental health issues. LEAD’s target population is not likely to engage in services without intense, place-based intervention. The goal of LEAD is to keep participants out of the criminal justice system. As a “harm reduction model,” LEAD meets participants “where they are” and wraps services around them. Seattle’s LEAD program has focused on two neighborhoods. LEAD, as developed by partners within Marion County, will focus on the top 100 utilizers of jail and emergency room services, with emphasis on individuals living in the downtown Salem area and along the Lancaster Drive corridor in East Salem. Start-up funds are needed to retain navigators housed at a local nonprofit and to obtain treatment services that are not covered by the Oregon Health Plan or other resources.

#### **Transitional Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence –**

The Center for Hope and Safety has purchased property for the purpose of building transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence. Planning for the new facility will begin in 2017-18 and will include 20-30 housing units. The Center will seek financial assistance through grants and community donations to assist with demolition, architectural services, construction and furnishings costs for the facility.

#### **Contacts:**

*Marion County- Barb Young, 503.589.3263*

*CFM Federal Affairs- Joel Rubin, 202.347.9171*