



# Human Services Commission

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

### Enabling Legislation and/or Bylaws

The Human Services Commission (HSC) ORS 190 Intergovernmental Agreement form of governance was established in 1972 to regionally coordinate the administration of human services jointly funded by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County through the County Department of Health and Human Services. This entity is responsible for regional health and human services. In 1981, the federal Community Action Anti-Poverty Program, which had been administered separately by the County’s Social Services Division, was folded into the fund. In 1984, with the beginning of the Community Development Block Grant program, the cities integrated the allocation of public service funds for social services.

**The HSC Board** is administered by seven members consisting of public officials under an ORS 190 Intergovernmental Agreement between the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County. Membership is based on the proportion of general fund contributions. Representatives include at least one elected representative from each jurisdiction. The City of Eugene has three seats and Lane County and the City of Springfield each have two public officials seated on the Board. (LM 3.568)

### Scope and Function

The function of the Human Services Commission is to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in the following areas:

The HSC provides advice to the Board of County Commissioners and the Eugene and Springfield City Councils on community needs and priorities for human services. Its tasks include: assisting in the development of an intergovernmental human services plan and budget, assisting in planning, review and evaluation of services in the intergovernmental human services plan; assisting in evaluation of proposals to provide services, providing for citizen participation in the planning process for community human services, and making recommendations to units of local government regarding their specific human services proposals.

### Membership

Human Services Commission meetings are open to any county or city employee and members of the public. The HSC membership in calendar year 2019 was officially comprised of the following members:

- Commissioner Pat Farr, Lane County
- Commissioner Joe Berney, Lane County
- Councilor Claire Syrett, City of Eugene, Vice Chair
- Councilor Chris Pryor, City of Eugene
- Shaun Londahl, City of Eugene Budget Committee member
- Councilor Marilee Woodrow, City of Springfield, Chair
- Gabrielle Guidero, City of Springfield Budget Committee member

### Staff Contacts

Steve Manela, Human Services Division Manager, Lane County	(541) 682-3797	<a href="mailto:Steve.Manela@lanecountyor.gov">Steve.Manela@lanecountyor.gov</a>
Alex Dreher, Program Services Coordinator, Lane County	(541) 682-4629	<a href="mailto:alexandria.dreher@lanecountyor.gov">alexandria.dreher@lanecountyor.gov</a>
Diana Alldredge, Administrative Assistant, Lane County	(541) 682-3798	<a href="mailto:Diana.Allredge@lanecountyor.gov">Diana.Allredge@lanecountyor.gov</a>
Stephanie Jennings, Grants Manager, City of Eugene	(541) 682-5529	<a href="mailto:SJennings@eugene-or.gov">SJennings@eugene-or.gov</a>
Erin Fifield, Comm. Dev. Analyst, City of Springfield	(541) 726-2302	<a href="mailto:EFifield@springfield-or.gov">EFifield@springfield-or.gov</a>

## Meeting Frequency

The Human Services Commission met on the following dates in 2019:

- January 18, 2019
- February 15, 2019
- March 15, 2019
- April 15, 2019
- May 20, 2019
- June 17, 2019
- July 15, 2019
- September 16, 2019
- October 21, 2019
- November 18, 2019
- December 21, 2019

## Committee Topics of Note/Accomplishments

The Human Services Commission heard and discussed the following topics:

- Shelter Feasibility Study and Homeless Service System Analysis conducted by Technical Assistance Collaborative
- Winter Strategies for people experiencing homelessness
- The Commons on MLK, 51 unit permanent supportive housing project developed by Lane County, Homes for Good, and other partners.
- Housing Improvement Program (HIP) Grants
- ROMA/PDCA Planning Process (Results Oriented Management and Accountability and Plan Do Act Study)
- Community Needs Assessment
- Human Services budget preparation and funding policy discussion
- Short Term Family Housing
- Human Services Division and HSC statement of revenue and expenditures
- Frequent User Systems Engagement (FUSE) projects
- Jurisdiction budget requests
- Point in Time Homeless Street Count (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Continuum of Care HUD Homeless Assistance Grant
- State of Oregon funding
- Energy and Weatherization Programs
- Community Needs Assessment
- Workforce and Employment Services
- Panel discussions on programs regarding Food Security, Basic-Needs for Low-Income households, and Early Childhood Intervention programs.

## Focus Areas

The HSC will focus on the following objectives in the upcoming year:

- Review Human Services Community Needs Assessment
- Review options for future human services revenues
- Update strategic plan
- Implement TAC recommendations and homeless service system improvements
- Track relevant legislation at the local, state, and federal levels

## Challenges and Strategies

The following are the greatest challenges before the HSC and the strategies planned to overcome them:

- Challenge is the stagnant local revenue available for human services as poverty and homelessness increase in Lane County. Also lack of new resources to establish prevention and early intervention programs.
- The Human Services Commission received multiple supplemental funding requests outside of the budget cycle for additional funds from nonprofit service providers to cover program expenses and improve agency health, including raising staff wages.