

**COHC Transformation Fund
Health thru Housing (HtH)
Project Abstract**

Executive Summary: The last annual Central Oregon homeless street count conducted in 2012 showed that there were over 2,100 self-certified homeless people in the region. Studies show that a significant number of patients with the most complex health conditions fit into the category of either homeless or very low-income and lack in safe, sanitary and affordable housing. This population has become highest in cost from both a Medicaid and emergency room use standpoint. Addressing social determinants to health is challenging but necessary work in order to improve personal health in our region. A small proactive investment now, will yield profound long term savings.

Lead Agency/Person: Families Forward Inc. / Kenny LaPoint

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Participating Partners: Mosaic Medical Clinic, Family Access Network (FAN), Tri County Homeless Liaisons, Homeless Leadership Coalition, Housing Works

Proposed Intervention: The *Health thru Housing (HtH)* pilot project will provide intensive case management services using an HtH Navigator along with the provision of rental assistance to approximately 18-25 households, who meet the established program acuity scale criteria (see attachment 5). Establishing stable housing is the first step in building a foundation for better health, so 64% of the grant funds will be used for the direct costs of housing these families. By leveraging existing relationships with over 500 landlords who accept rental subsidy, Families Forward will use the grant funds to pay a portion of the participants' rent based on income and also front the cost of security deposits.

The HtH Navigator will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to clients, partners and landlords. The HtH Navigator will assist clients in obtaining and maintaining housing and services including: 1) Medicaid enrollment and recertification; 2) establishing and following through on care plans with primary care providers; and 3) ensuring attendance in service partner appointments. The HtH Navigator will use a holistic approach in addressing household needs. We anticipate that providing housing and case management services will result in a drastic reduction in the Medicaid and emergency room costs associated with the population served.

Target OHP Population: Families and/or individuals living in Central Oregon who are currently pregnant or experiencing a complex medical condition, who are also homeless or at risk of being homeless, and who are enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid.

Transformation Fund Request: \$285,000