



Media Release

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City of Medford and Rogue Retreat Partnership to Help Almeda Fire Victims

On Wednesday, March 10 the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) announced funding for a Medford Project Turnkey facility which will transform an existing Medford Motel, the Redwood Inn, into emergency housing for Almeda Fire victims and houseless individuals.

Upon completion, the transformation will provide 47 apartments with kitchenettes to individuals and families in need. Rogue Retreat will operate the new facility.

"I'm thrilled that Rogue Retreat and the City of Medford are receiving funding for a Project Turnkey facility. This is a giant step in the community's efforts to help individuals in crisis more toward stability and permanent housing," said Representative Pam Marsh.

The City was a co-applicant on the OCF grant and provided critical technical support in developing the project proposal including safety inspections of the property, property acquisition assistance, grant writing, creation of a financial plan for sustained operations and identification and advocacy for potential funding opportunities for the project.

"A number of our staff have spent countless hours dedicated to getting this project to the finish line," said Medford City Manager, Brian Sjothun. "Our City Council has prioritized housing and assistance for houseless individuals and this project is the perfect example of how we, as a City, can help facilitate collaborative partnerships and create solutions for our community."

While the OCF grant is for the acquisition of the site and purchase of the kitchenettes, there is a significant amount of funding needed to complete remodeling of the units and sustain ongoing operations.

The City's Medford Urban Renewal Board is scheduled to meet on March 11 to consider funding commitments for the renovation expenses of this project. In addition, City Council will consider the Community Services and Development Commission's recommendation to allocate \$420,427 in Community Development Block Grant CARES Act funds to support operations on April 15.

In support of this project, ACCESS will provide financial support to work with the project's advisory committee to develop a long-term sustainable operations plan.

"Rogue Retreat is excited to partner with OCF, the City of Medford and our community partners through Project Turnkey. Our community was already in a housing crisis before the Almeda Fire destroyed over 2,500 homes. These new units will go a long way in helping Southern Oregon recover from the fires and the housing crisis," said Chad McComas, Rogue Retreat Executive Director.

The City has also submitted an application for \$120,000 to Providence Health & Services to implement a recuperative care component in this facility.

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