

# ARPA Submission Format

## Project

Peace Trail Village of tiny homes and wrap-around services for unhoused persons.

## Justification

- **How it addresses economic and public health impacts of COVID19**

Houselessness can negatively impact the health of community members experiencing it and public health. According to the 2020 pre-pandemic houseless census in Yamhill county, 1,428 persons were living in shelters, unsheltered locations, or couch surfing. Unhoused persons are at higher risk for environmental hazards and have higher barriers seeking treatment for medical or behavioral health conditions, and this has been especially true of COVID19.

The COVID19 pandemic highlighted and exacerbated the need for housing and behavioral health solutions in our communities. Two 501c3 nonprofits, North Valley Friends Church (NVFC) and Providence Newberg Health Foundation's Better Outcomes thru Bridges Program (BOB), are partnering to meet transitional housing and wrap-around service needs for people in Newberg. Peace Trail Village will consist of 9 tiny homes, each with connection to water, sewer, and electricity and access to a laundry facility (in a 550 ft<sup>2</sup> addition to the NVFC gymnasium). We also propose 3-4 RV spaces that would allow for short-term stays. NVFC will bring 7 additional houses (two homes arrived in spring 2020) and complete construction on their location, and BOB will provide wrap-around case management for guests in benefit navigation, medical/behavioral health services, and transitioning to permanent housing.

By assisting people into transitional and eventually stable housing, the Village will increase people's economic participation in the city and county economies during the continuing pandemic and after. People in secure housing have better opportunity to increase their employment opportunities. Public health will be improved as Village guests receive medical, behavioral health, and other services they need through our case management and linkages.

- **Why it needs to be done.**

Peace Trail Village provides housing first, to help get people off the street and into a safe environment where they can rest and recover. The housing first model is probably the most well-known harm reduction model of care. Combining shelter with case management and wrap-around services provides the best transition and opportunity for success in stable housing. More Newberg residents in stable housing increases economic strength and public health.

The NVCF and BOB partnership will work collaboratively with community partners and serve the entire Newberg community. BOB Outreach Specialists are case managers who develop and implement strategies that improve the health of individuals with behavioral health and multiple social determinants of health needs, most often living unhoused. They use a person-centered and client-led framework when working directly with individuals in the community, meeting clients where they are at. They help clients navigate with resources and healthcare services and connect with community partners to support clients in meeting their goals, including housing screening

and placement; connecting clients and landlords; meeting regularly with clients; co-developing recovery plans; linking people with services to promote connections to stable housing; connecting people with wrap-around support, such as medical providers, addiction recovery outreach, and culturally specific services (when we cannot provide them).

We expect to assist 20 individuals per year living in the Village or its RV spaces with locating and assuring entry to housing (e.g., liaising with potential landlords). The BOB Outreach Specialist will provide wrap-around services through Providence Newberg Medical Center or clinic, case management, referrals, and benefit navigation, especially to Oregon Health Plan as the majority, if not all, Village guests will be below the federal poverty level. BOB will work with guests five days per week and for as long as they stay—one month to one year; this length sets our program apart and increases positive economic and public health outcomes.

- **What is included in the cost?**

Our project total cost of \$695,800 will provide unhoused persons in the City of Newberg with 9 tiny homes and wrap-around services to ensure their health during the COVID19 crisis and improve the public health. These Newberg residents will receive case management services to address any medical or behavioral health concerns and to secure long-term housing.

Costs include construction and installation of the 9 tiny homes and laundry facility, a contractor onsite for the year to coordinate the project and all volunteers (NVFC, Home Builders Association, and Habitat for Humanity have expressed interest), and a BOB Outreach Specialist onsite 5 days/week from July 2022 when guests arrive through December 2024.

- **Implementation Timeline**

The project planning has begun with a site plan (available upon request) and tentative agreement with the City of Newberg on water/sewer. NVFC leadership has approved the project and received support from many neighbors.

With the partnership of the City of Newberg, we expect to begin construction in May 2022 and complete it by May 2023. Providence will hire an Outreach Specialist to begin July 1, 2022 (when we expect 3-5 houses to open for guests) and continue through the project completion date of December 31, 2024.

## **Project Sustainability**

- **How will the project bring long lasting economic recovery benefits?**

Project partners NVFC and BOB out of Providence Newberg have long been working in the community. We have increased this work as result of the COVID19 crisis. A rare positive result of the COVID19 pandemic is the new solutions and funding directed to public health and housing instability. This program strengthens that safety net and provides for a site of temporary housing for unhoused persons that will exist to support community members in need for the long term. Providing the temporary housing and wrap-around, case management services create the best long lasting individual outcomes, which decreases social service involvement and encourages lasting economic recovery.

- **Are local or minority vendors involved?**

Yes, we will use local vendors whenever possible (NVFC has been deeply embedded in this community for 50 years) and will strive to hire minority vendors. We will refer guests to local and minority-led organizations for services. BOB will also seek a bi-lingual Outreach Specialist to work at Peace Trail Village.

- **Please describe its sustainability if applicable.**

There is a tremendous amount of energy in the community for this kind of project. Much of the ongoing costs will be covered by NVFC, which will incorporate Village utility cost into its annual budget and its volunteers will maintain the grounds (e.g., mowing, landscaping, trash removal). BOB brings 3 years of experience partnering with Agape Village tiny homes in Multnomah County, providing similar case management services to their 15 residents. BOB staff also provide housing assessment and case management services for unhoused persons at Newberg motels.

BOB has secured significant funding to provide services in Newberg (including from Albertsons and Austin Family Foundations). It is part of the fundraising plan of Providence Newberg Health Foundation, which is dedicated to the sustainability of the program.

Village guests will benefit from NVFC's free clothing closet and BOB's outreach supplies (e.g., food, transportation, phone cards). We have already developed existing and potential partners in this project: Northside Community Church, Community Wellness Collective, Newberg High School, Winterbloom Landscaping and Design, Habitat for Humanity, Wayside Friends Church, Home Builders Association, and LoveOne. These local community partnerships will better embed the Village in our Newberg community and encourage sustainability.

**In addition to our immediate grant request, and as a part of our longer-term strategy to address houselessness and housing insecurity among the most vulnerable in Newberg, we are respectfully asking the City of Newberg to earmark additional \$500,000 to go toward a future supportive housing project. We are submitting this special earmark request, not as Providence, but on behalf of an emerging coalition of community partners (of which Providence is a member) in the early planning stages for a 40-unit supportive housing project within Newberg. This project is slated for construction after 2022. Conversations and planning are moving forward at a steady clip with partners including developers and service providers. We are happy to have follow-up conversations about this project and coalition at the city's request.**

## **ARPA Expenditure Categories (EC)**

3.11 Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons

3.14 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators