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For More information:

Sponsors, Inc.: Paul Solomon, pjsolomon@sponsorsinc.org, 541.543.3237

Homes for Good: Jacob Fox, jfox@homesforgood.org, 541.682.2527

Lane County Parole and Probation: Donovan Dumire, donvoan.dumire@lane.co.or.us, 541.682.3151

Media Availability

The Way Home: Lane County Reentry Collaborative



The Way Home: Lane County Reentry Collaborative formally launched this month. The project is a partnership between Sponsors, Inc., Homes for Good, Lane County Parole and Probation, and Third Sector Capital Partners; and initial funding stemmed from a highly competitive \$1.3 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration.

Sponsors, Homes for Good, and Lane County Parole and Probation have worked together for more than 20 years to develop affordable housing for people with criminal histories. The partnership has been recognized nationally for the development of model programs that utilize evidence-based practices to reduce homelessness and recidivism. We are also pleased to be working with Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc., a nonprofit advisory firm that has helped to realign \$365 million in public funding to the achievement of positive outcomes in 13 sites across the U.S. Third Sector led data analyses, supported stakeholder engagement, and facilitated



work flow among government and project partners to align policy, funding, and service delivery goals.

The Way Home (TWH) will provide 100 units of Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to individuals with conviction histories in Lane County over the next two years, and a rigorous evaluation to take place over the next five years will measure the impact of PSH on recidivism, housing, and health outcomes, among others.

The project will provide PSH and enhanced services to 125 people over five years. Housing will be located at The Oaks at 14th, scattered site public housing units, and private market units subsidized with Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. Success will be determined by predetermined outcome measures that include significant reductions in recidivism and homelessness, and more appropriate utilization of health care services.

Sponsors recently accessed \$500,000 in startup funding through the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) and its Oregon Impact Fund. The Oregon Impact Fund lends to nonprofit organizations and for-profit social ventures in Oregon that demonstrate quantifiable impact in the areas of affordable housing, education, health care access, natural resource management and job creation in underserved communities. The Oregon Impact Fund provides start-up funding for TWH beginning October 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The project currently has a \$3.1 million POP Budget request through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, with support from the Governor's Office, that will provide funding for years two and three.

The Way Home will model for the county, state and region the opportunity to utilize outcomes-based contracts to address complex social problems. Such contracts are structured so that resources are aligned with results: "success payments" are only made when the service provider achieves specific measurable outcomes. This innovative model has the potential to revolutionize how government entities create financial and programmatic incentives for better outcome achievement by services providers. Furthermore, the model provides for incentive payments that can be made when the provider meets and exceeds the agreed upon outcomes.

The longitudinal evaluation of The Way Home is led by Dr. J Mark Eddy from New York University and researchers from the University of Oregon and New Zealand.