

Wilson Ave. Housing Program Presentation

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



MARCH 20, 2024

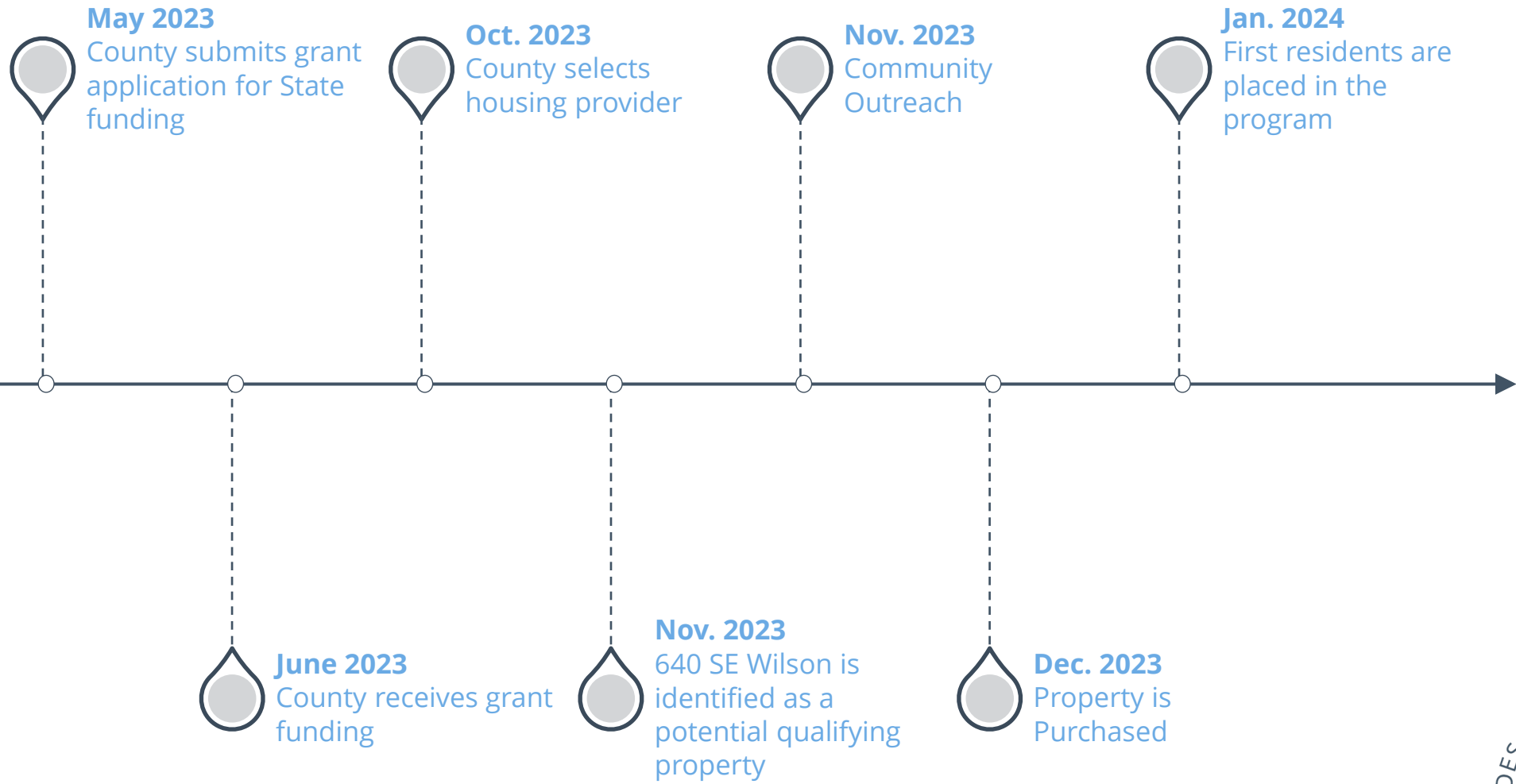
Meeting Format

- **Staff presentation**
 - Commissioners ask staff questions
- **Public hearing**
 - 1-3 minutes depending on number of speakers
 - Commissioners may ask questions of speakers or staff
 - Not a back and forth dialogue
- **BOCC options (today or at future meeting)**
 - Discussion
 - Deliberations
 - Decision



Wilson Ave. Program Background

How was the program created?



Grant application

- **Original grant application said the property should be 1,000 feet from parks, but property is less than 1,000 feet from Kiwanis Park**
 - Original application referenced a 1,000 foot distance as a potential restrictive distance
 - During next phase of process (program provider and location selection), County specified that 1,000 foot distance from a park is not a requirement, but a person on supervision with a 1,000 foot restriction of a park would not be placed at the house
- **Low barrier vs high barrier**
 - Grant application labeled program as low barrier
 - As program developed, it is in fact high barrier



Who does the program serve?

- The Wilson Ave. Program provides housing for males on supervision who would otherwise be homeless
- High-barrier
- Operated by a non-profit: Free On The Outside
 - Non-profit has more than 15 years' experience
- Live-in housing manager
- All residents assigned to a Parole & Probation Officer and required to comply with court-mandated supervision



How are residents placed?

- **Screened for safety and readiness**
 - Follow program rules, supervision conditions, and safe conduct
- **Screening assesses totality of circumstances**
 - Reason for supervision
 - Criminogenic risk and need (risk to reoffend)
 - Level of remorse
 - Readiness to improve their life
 - Compliance with supervision
 - Past performance on supervision
 - Readiness to agree to and abide by house rules



Program screening processes

- **Candidates need to demonstrate:**
 - Evidence they are in treatment or in the process of entering treatment
 - They are employed or seeking employment
 - Pursuing recovery from substances, if applicable
- **Parole & Probation Officers provide a high level of monitoring and support**
 - Home visits
 - Office visits
 - Communication with treatment providers and employers
 - Responding to behaviors in the community



About Adult Parole & Probation

What is a Parole & Probation Officer?

In Deschutes County, 22 Parole and Probation officers supervise over 1,000 individuals on supervision.

Parole and Probation Officers contribute to public safety and, therefore, impact the community, victims and offenders, by holding offenders accountable for their behavior and working with them to make positive changes in their lives.

Adult Parole & Probation is committed to promoting public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and by providing alternatives to criminal attitudes, beliefs and behavior.



What is Community Supervision?

Parole and Probation officers supervise criminal offenders sentenced to felony or misdemeanor probation by the Court or released to parole or post-prison supervision from a correctional facility.

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Accountability Steps

- Assigned to a Parole and Probation Officer
- Meetings with Parole and Probation Officer
- Substance abuse testing
- Referral to treatment programs and providers
- Connecting with court system for payment of court fees and victim restitution
- Enforcement of supervision conditions

Adult Parole & Probation is committed to promoting public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and by providing alternatives to criminal attitudes, beliefs and behavior.



Other Mitigation Tools

- Electronic monitoring
- Unannounced search conditions
- Participation in UA program
- Digital media monitoring
- Increased reporting

Adult Parole & Probation is committed to promoting public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and by providing alternatives to criminal attitudes, beliefs and behavior.



Community Feedback

Community requests and staff response

Request:

Build a house in another location, potentially on the Public Safety Campus

Staff response:

- Space designated for 9-1-1 and Oregon State Police future growth
- Result in loss of grant funds
- No funds budgeted for this recommendation



Community requests and staff response

Request:

Limit eligibility to women and children

Staff response:

- Need is to house men, less demand to house women on supervision
- Jeopardize grant funds



Community requests and staff response

Request:

*Find a house in
another location*

Staff response:

- Relocation would likely result in discontinuation of program
- Return of grant funds
- Same/similar neighborhood issues



Community requests and staff response

Request:

Close the house

Staff response:

- Housing demand/need for population
- Return grant funding (County to repay funds spent to date)
- People on supervision live throughout our community
- Community safer when people on supervision are housed



Community requests and staff response

Request:

*No individuals
classified as a Level 2
sex offender*

Staff response:

- Would preclude a significant number of potential participants
- Diminish program's intent
- Screening tool/process used to mitigate risk



Community requests and staff response

Request:

No individuals classified as a Level 3 sex offender

Staff response:

- Individuals classified as Level 3 sex offenders are less likely to meet eligibility due to screening tool/process
- Would limit program participants
- Increases the chance an individual classified as a level 3 sex offender is homeless (community safety issue)



Community requests and staff response

Request:

Don't allow any sex offenders

Staff response:

- Would preclude a significant number of potential participants
- Diminish program's intent to a level that program would be unsustainable
- Community safety concerns



Community requests and staff response

Request:

County provide “legal and financial accountability”

Staff response:

- Court and law releases people who have completed prison or jail sentence to live in the community
- People on supervision live throughout community (est. at 1,000)

(continued on next slide)



Community requests and staff response

Request:

County provide “legal and financial accountability”

Staff response (cont.):

- Deschutes County doesn't provide “legal and financial accountability” for anybody on supervision. Such individuals are already in the community.
- Risks cannot be eliminated, but are mitigated
- Program includes house manager, security cameras at the residence, screening of participants, and active supervision of participants by POs



Community requests and staff response

Request:

County provide neighbors stipend

Staff response:

- County does not provide a stipend to other neighbors of people on supervision
- Risk cannot be eliminated, but are mitigated
- Program includes house manager, security cameras at triplex, screening of participants, and active supervision of participants by POs



Community requests and staff response

Request:

Apply Bend's "shelter code" to property

Staff response:

- Code does not apply to the property



To learn more:

 www.deschutes.org/CJhousing

 housing@deschutes.org

