

# Council Work Session

## February 22, 2024

Addressing Homelessness in the Florence Area

Presentation by FECWSC and  
The Devereux Center



## Mayor, City Council and Staff

We are here to give you an update on how the State's All In funding is being used to help the Florence community address homelessness.

Housing and homelessness are local issues with local history. In 2023 the State recognized that local jurisdictions need help to address the growing impact of homelessness on their communities.

## Governor's Executive Order 23-02

“Local jurisdictions and businesses have spent and continue to spend significant resources to address the impact of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Examples include, but are not limited to, picking up and disposing of debris, garbage, waste, and biohazards ....”



## People Experiencing Homelessness in Florence

Local service providers have for several years estimated over 200 people are experiencing homelessness in our community. This excludes the seasonal and transient homeless that come through Florence.

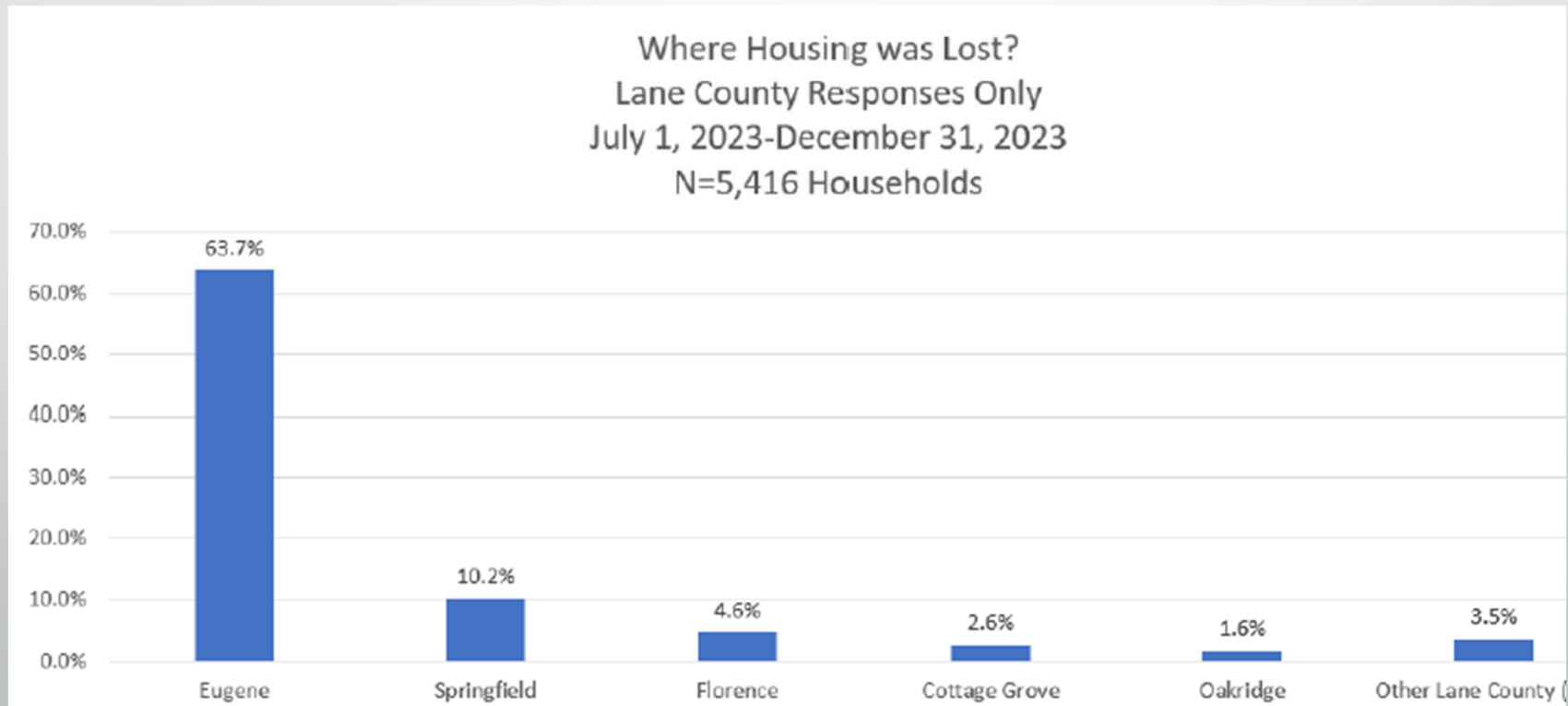
The data from the warming center last winter and the Bridges Program so far supports the fact that the people experiencing homelessness in Florence are from Florence originally or were here for a significant amount of time before they became homeless.

## Lane County Homelessness Data

The Lane County has been collecting data on homelessness.

- The County data for January 2024 records 4703 unhoused individuals in Lane County, 5% of whom were in Florence, or 216 individuals.
- Of the 5,416 people who experienced homelessness in Lane County during the six months ending December 31, 2023, 4.6% lived in Florence when they lost their housing. That's 249 people losing their housing here.
- Recent Council Work Sessions covered housing issues.

# Lane County Homelessness Data



## All In Funding in Florence

All In funding is focused on reducing homelessness by increasing access to housing with three programs. This is the All In funding for Florence:

- Homelessness prevention	\$216,000
- Rapid Re-housing	\$400,000
- Emergency Shelter beds	<u>\$510,000</u>
	\$1,126,000

[https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county\\_departments/health\\_and\\_human\\_services/human\\_services\\_division/all\\_in\\_lane\\_county](https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/health_and_human_services/human_services_division/all_in_lane_county)

# Emergency Shelter is Housing First

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) training for Lane County service providers in December 2023 covered the Housing First Principles for programs, including emergency shelters. Housing First principles include:

- Homelessness is foremost a housing and economic problem
- People should be returned to or stabilized in permanent housing as quickly as possible and voluntarily connected to resources necessary to sustain that housing
- Issues that may have contributed to people experiencing homelessness can best be addressed once they are permanently housed





## All In Funding for The Bridges Program

The Bridges Program of Florence is an emergency shelter funded by the State All In grant to help people move into permanent housing.

The program provides secure, safe shelter in a structured environment.

The program includes case management to work with people on overcoming barriers to housing such as getting back their ID and social security card and connecting with service providers.

# The Bridges Program of Florence

All In funding is for a low-barrier shelter. This means that there are few requirements for entry.

There are requirements to stay based on appropriate behavior and adherence to the rules.

This is a secure, fenced site with 24/7 paid site monitor staffing.

The program is full and there is a waitlist. 90% of the guests are from Florence or Mapleton.

# The Bridges Program of Florence

We are collaborating with local service providers and agencies including:

- Siuslaw Outreach Services
- Peace Health
- West Lane Crisis Response
- Florence Police
- Lane County Street Outreach
- Reconnections Counseling
- Mobile Community Social-Health Center



# Questions

Followed by a Tour of the Site

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## Links to Additional Information

- January 2023 Executive Order 23-02 (EO 23-02) declaring state of emergency due to homelessness  
EO23-02 Full Text <https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Pages/housing-emergency-executive-orders.aspx>
- March 2023 State Legislature appropriates \$200m in funding  
Article <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/homeless/oregon-house-housing-homelessness-200-million/283-3f77ae27-8510-42a9-b56c-1f1fe09c5ded>
- April 2023 Lane County MAC team plan accepted by the State  
MAC Plan including emergency shelter beds, rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention  
[https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county\\_departments/health\\_and\\_human\\_services/human\\_services\\_division/all\\_in\\_lane\\_county](https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/health_and_human_services/human_services_division/all_in_lane_county)
- October 2023 article about homelessness in Oregon  
<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/09/oregon-homelessness-history-background-housing-solutions/>  
“Silvis is one of the nearly 18,000 Oregonians who experienced homelessness in 2022. Her story reflects some of the biggest factors contributing to the state’s growing crisis.”
- OCVA provides a significant amount of data on coastal housing and income  
<https://visittheoregoncoast.com/industry/industry-planning-documents/>  
Oregon Coast Economic Study