

To: Chair Young, Planning Commission members, and Planning Department staff  
From: Michael Allen, Elders Climate Action Oregon Chapter, co-leader  
Date: February 27, 2024  
Subject: **MILESTONE MOVE TOWARD CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

Something extraordinary happened at the Florence City Council meeting on February 5th. **The Mayor and four council members voted unanimously to approve participation in Lane County's application to the EPA's Community Change Grant program.** What makes this so extraordinary is that the grant will pursue the establishment of a Resilience Hub in Florence.

**Resilience Hubs** are community facilities augmented to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and **reduce carbon pollution**, while enhancing the quality of life.



**I was pleasantly surprised** to hear assistant city manager Megan Messmer give a detailed description of a wonderful opportunity for collaboration with Lane County. Messmer explained that Lane County's Resilience Team approached them last December saying EPA allocated \$2 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act of which \$20 million could be allocated to 4 to 6 cities throughout Lane County. In each case the focus will be on Resilience Hubs. The strategy is to retrofit an already existing facility that provides services to the community.

**The City is considering the Senior Center as a Resilience Hub** since it is a natural gathering place and serves a more vulnerable population. The Senior Center is owned by the City and managed by the Senior Booster Club.

**The upgrades** to the Senior Center will require \$1.7 million. They will include expansion of the facility. Additional items include:

- Emergency Generator
- HVAC System upgrade for smoke filtration
- Solar Panels
- Electric Vehicle charging stations
- Parking lot expansion and lighting using solar and wind

**You may hear more** about this amazing proposal at this link starting at 1:34:30

<https://vimeo.com/910621205?share=copy>

Learn more about Resilience Hubs at: <https://resilience-hub.org/what-are-hubs/>

I encourage the Planning Commission to follow the progress of this grant application and to promote additional climate resiliency programs for the benefit and safety of Florence residents.

The Senior Center could become an even more valuable asset to the community and a showcase for others to emulate.



## Lane County Application

Lane County will partner with a community-based organization and submit a County-wide application to create resilience hubs throughout Lane County.

Resilience Hubs are community-serving facilities augmented to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution, while enhancing quality of life.

Lane County's strategy for these grants is as follows:

- Fund retrofits to improve resilience of publicly owned buildings (4-6 across Lane County);
- Support and collaborate with a local community-based organization to bolster emergency preparedness through education, supplies, programming, and otherwise working to build the resilience of the communities they serve; and
- Community engagement and collaborative planning.

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## Recommendation

City Council adopt Resolution No. 2, Series 2024, a resolution establishing approval to participate in the Lane County grant application for the EPA's Community Change Grant Program to include the Senior Center expansion project and delegating authority to the City Manager or designee to submit the project to Lane County for inclusion in the countywide grant application.

