



CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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The Best of Oregon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAMILY PROMISE OF BEAVERTON RECEIVES CITY GRANT TO SUPPORT HOMELESS FAMILIES

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The Beaverton City Council approved a grant agreement with Family Promise of Beaverton at its regular council meeting held Jan. 16. The agreement allows up to \$50,000 in grant funds to be appropriated to support unhoused families in the Beaverton area annually.

Family Promise of Beaverton is modeled after a successful national program that uses existing community resources to help children and their families attain sustainable permanent housing. In addition to funding support, the city will provide its community center for two weeks each year as a host site for families to stay.

“We’re grateful for this partnership,” said Executive Director Jolene Guptill. “We expect to be operational in March of this year, and this grant helps make our goal of having family resources in Beaverton a reality.”

Family Promise will serve three to five homeless families (up to 14 people) every night of the year, providing them with food, resources, and a safe place to sleep. The program operates through partnerships with 13 host sites that provide room for the families one week at a time. Nationally, the average length of stay in the program is 63 days, with 75 percent of program participants securing permanent housing upon exiting the program.

While the city operates an inclement weather shelter for adult individuals, there is currently no permanent or severe weather options for families in the city. The number of homeless students in Oregon increased more than five percent in 2016-17, and Beaverton has the most total number of homeless students in the state.

Mayor Denny Doyle established a staff taskforce to recommend three actions the city should take to respond to the issue of homelessness. One of the three recommendations was to support the Family Promise model in Beaverton, providing support for operational expenses to help provide safe transitional living arrangements for families.

“This is a great partnership and shows the power of the faith community and government coming together,” said Mayor Denny Doyle. “We are grateful to have Family Promise of Beaverton to step up and open a much needed safe space for Beaverton families.”

In 2016, the city opened its severe weather shelter, and this year shelter operations were expanded two additional months. In total, nearly 450 guests have utilized shelter resources and the city continues its mission of providing a safe, warm place for area adults experiencing homelessness. The shelter is open each Thursday night through March 2018. Additional open hours occur when temperatures are expected to drop

below freezing for more than 48 hours, and there is sufficient volunteer capacity. For shelter details, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/shelter.

The city of Beaverton is home to more than 95,000 residents and is Oregon's sixth largest city. We are a friendly, active and responsive city well-known for our exceptional community services and amenities, helping Beaverton residents enjoy a high quality of life. Ranked in *Money* magazine's Best Places to Live, Beaverton truly is "The Best of Oregon."

For more information, reminders and community news, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov. Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton or Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton.

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