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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEAVERTON DUII PREVENTION PROGRAM AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT

BEAVERTON, Ore. – The Beaverton Sobriety Opportunity for Beginning Recovery program has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Drug Court Discretionary Grant will be dispensed over four years at \$125,000 per year and will be matched with city funds.

“The Beaverton Sobriety Opportunity for Beginning Recovery (B-SOBR) program is an innovative effort that makes a real difference in the lives of those who are struggling with addiction,” said Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. “This grant will empower the city to make our community safer by reaching even more people who have been caught driving under the influence. I am proud to have advocated for this funding and will continue to support programs that help people who are battling addiction find a path to recovery.”

“With this federal grant, the Beaverton Sobriety Opportunity for Beginning Recovery program will be able to enhance services and increase capacity, helping even more high-risk, high-need community members turn their lives around,” said Oregon’s U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley. “I applaud Beaverton’s investment in the community with this program, and I will continue to use my seat on the Senate Appropriations Committee to support this and other innovative community safety initiatives.”

“Beaverton earned this federal grant by adopting a comprehensive and innovative strategy that combines public safety and holding offenders accountable with support for people working to recover from addictions to alcohol and drugs,” Oregon’s U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said. “These resources will allow Beaverton to grow its drug court approach, benefiting the community and providing a model for other communities in Oregon and nationwide.”

B-SOBR was created in 2011 in response to a growing number of DUII (Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants) citations in the area. Since then, 93 individuals have graduated from the program with meaningful results—less than eight percent of this high-risk group have repeat DUIIs after completing the program.

“B-SOBR continues to have a meaningful impact on our community,” said Mayor Denny Doyle. “It is amazing how this innovative and intense program changes people’s lives. It affirms that Beaverton is a city that cares about everyone who lives and works here. Many thanks to our federal partners.”

The grant will support expanded program capacity and enhance available services. The increased funding is expected to result in the addition of two new participants to the program each month. Added services include the hiring of two state-licensed peer support mentors,

the availability of 24/7 random drug screens with a variety of testing panels and screening methods, offering public transportation passes to program participants, and utilizing mobile technology to help build, record and track a participant's recovery.

"The B-SOBR team is thrilled to be selected as a recipient for this grant," said Presiding Judge Juliet Britton. "These funds will enable our team to add new components to the program that will encourage continued participation, accountability, and rehabilitation, while at the same time increase public safety and reduce recidivism."

B-SOBR focuses on offenders with multiple convictions and those with a blood alcohol content of 0.15 (nearly twice the legal limit of .08) or higher. Beaverton Municipal Court processes approximately 350 DUII cases annually. Beaverton is one of only three courts in Oregon that offers a program to address high risk and high needs repeat DUII offenders.

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