

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 8, 2013**

Present

Councilor Mike Beilstein, Chair  
Councilor Penny York  
Councilor Bruce Sorte

Staff

Jim Patterson, City Manager  
Ken Gibb, Community Development Director  
Marci Laurent, Management Assistant  
Carrie Mullens, City Manager's Office

Visitors

Jennifer Moore, United Way of Benton and Lincoln Counties Executive Director (UWBLC)  
Helen Higgins, Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis Executive Director (BGCC)  
Gina Vee, Corvallis Homeless Shelter Coalition Executive Director (CHSC)  
Lyn Martin, We Care  
Martha Clemons, South Corvallis Food Bank  
Sarah Wyatt, UWBLC Community Impact Chair

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Information Only</u>	<u>Held for Further Review</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
I.	2013-2014 Social Services Policy Review, Funding Priorities, and Allocation Calendar		Jan 22	
II.	Other Business • Meeting date/time • Budget process	Yes Yes		

Chair Beilstein called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**CONTENT OF DISCUSSION**

**I. 2013-2014 Social Services Policy Review, Funding Priorities, and Allocation Calendar (Attachment)**

Mr. Gibb provided a brief history of the social services program:

- The policy was created at least 20 years ago to provide an annual amount of money, separate from the budget process, for social service assistance from the City.
- A separate process was established and included citizen volunteers with social service expertise to make allocation recommendations to Council.
- An annual review of the funding priorities and allocation process calendar is required.
- A full policy review is required every three years.
- UWBLC has been the administrator of the social service allocation program for several years. They manage the allocation process and work with a volunteer granting committee to make allocation recommendations to the Human Services Committee (HSC).

- The UWBLC Needs Assessment may provide additional information when considering policy changes and funding priorities.

Mr. Gibb reported that staff invited agencies to testify at this meeting and/or submit written comments. Agencies were provided with staff and UWBLC recommended policy changes as attached to the staff report. In addition to housekeeping issues, recommended policy changes include two items highlighted in the staff report: 1) amend funding section to reflect the current funding process; 2) remove detailed sanctions from the reporting section.

Mr. Gibb explained that historically, Council set a base funding amount that increased annually based on adjustments in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11, the funding process was amended due to City budget constraints. The annual CPI adjustment was suspended and the fund amount was addressed through the annual City-wide budget process. Since then, the funding amount has been considered by the City Manager when evaluating priorities with available resources. The fund amount is included in the City Manager's budget recommendations to the Budget Commission. The proposed policy changes reflect the funding process that has been used for the last few years. The current funding amount is approximately \$344,000.

Mr. Gibb said the proposed changes for the reporting section relate to agency sanctions/penalties for reporting delays. The sanctions were included to respond to agency reporting challenges from several years ago. Including the sanctions resulted in agency cooperation and UWBLC no longer believes it is necessary to include them in the policy.

The staff report also includes a proposed allocations calendar and minutes from the December 4 HSC meeting.

Ms. Moore said prior to FY 2011-12, two separate grant processes were conducted. One for UWBLC funds and one for City funds. UWBLC annually reviews process feedback from agencies, granting committee members, and others who are associated with the process. Following the FY 2011-12 review, UWBLC combined the two separate processes to increase efficiency and reduce duplication. The single grant process maintains the priority distinctions of UWBLC and the City. Combining the two processes means there is only one application, one granting committee, one set of agency presentations, one set of site visits, and one allocation discussion. Overall feedback was positive following the FY 2012-13 funding cycle. Additional recommendations will be implemented for FY 2013-14.

Ms. Moore stated that the last Needs Assessment was completed in FY 2009-10 and the final report was published at the end of 2010. Findings revealed a need for prioritizing or increasing funding for direct support of basic needs. The City's social service fund relates directly to this need. UWBLC is intensely working on three of

seven recommendations that were forwarded. One recommendation was to increase outreach to the community to provide awareness of and access to available services. That recommendation has been addressed by the 2-1-1 Information and Resource Referral line.

Ms. Moore said UWBLC strives to become more proactive with their mission. An effort to increase capacity is underway along with building an infrastructure to evaluate the system, identify areas for collaboration, and create vision with specific goals. This "collective impact" will allow all organizations, agencies, and others to work together to tackle the most pressing community challenges and take advantage of the best opportunities. UWBLC is committed to continuing and building on the work that was started with the Needs Assessment. UWBLC views their role as a backbone organization assisting with strategic planning, building momentum, building the capacity of others, and engaging volunteers. Three Vision Councils have been formed, each related to one UWBLC impact area: education, income, health. This will increase UWBLC's ability to care for those in need from an efficiency perspective and provide additional return on investment to community members and donors. The Vision Councils will provide an understanding of what is currently being done, by whom, and what gaps need to be filled. There are currently 16 members serving on the three Vision Councils. UWBLC continues to recruit for additional members.

Mr. Gibb added that UWBLC has been a good partner in the management of this program. He noted that the City's priorities of emergency and transitional services have been in place for many years.

Councilor Sorte reported that he learned of his assignment to HSC last night. He read the staff report and has briefly reviewed the UWBLC Needs Assessment document.

Mr. Gibb confirmed for Councilor Sorte that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) human services funding is separate from the social services allocation. The CDBG human services fund is currently significantly less than \$100,000.

Councilor Sorte requested the following information:

- Base line funding for the last 10 to 15 years on a per user basis, compared to other cities and state funding.
- Ten year history of revenue and costs.

Councilor Sorte clarified that he would prefer to see the City's contributions and UWBLC funds; however, either one is acceptable.

Councilor Sorte said economic development is typically a component of similar federal government allocations. Spending money for social services is a direct hit for economic development. This is not described in the policy and should be considered. Years ago, UWBLC's purpose was to reduce the costs to individual agencies. The agencies are

now provided the funds directly. He inquired whether agencies experience additional administrative costs or if their administrative costs are reduced by utilizing UWBLC.

Mr. Gibb suggested the policy and priorities be reviewed independently of any actual budget amount. He noted that the policy would be used regardless of whether UWBLC continued to be the City's contractor. Staff will provide background on the City's funding history for this program, the human services program, and funds that are directly available from UWBLC for the last five to 10 years.

Councilor York said she reviewed the meeting materials after learning of the Committee assignment last night. She did not review the Needs Assessment document. She participated in the UWBLC allocation process several years ago. In response to her inquiry, Ms. Moore confirmed that UWBLC no longer allows any lead volunteer from any organization applying for funds to serve on the granting committee.

Mr. Gibb added that the Mayor typically appoints one HSC member to participate on the UWBLC granting committee.

Councilor York referred to the definitions section of the policy. Under a. *Basic human needs*, "acute health care" is one of nine items identified as constituting an emergency. She said a mental health issue can be an emergency to self and/or others and suggested adding mental health care unless there is consensus that everyone understands "acute health care" includes mental health.

Ms. Moore said when "health" has been addressed during previous funding cycles, it has included mental, physical, and spiritual health as a whole.

Chair Beilstein stated appreciation for Councilor Sorte's inquiries. He would also like a summary of how much the City is funding for social and human services, how much that amount has changed, and at what percentage of the City's budget. He said he does not want to burden staff with preparing a long, detailed report. Mr. Gibb reiterated that he can provide a history of the CDBG and social service funding for the last five or 10 years, and include UWBLC's historical information.

Chair Beilstein said he prefers to consider the City separate from UWBLC, but also reviews the totality of the funding from both agencies as a meaningful parameter.

In response to Chair Beilstein's inquiry, Mr. Gibb said the current year allocation is \$344,590, including \$107,000 from the levy.

In response to Chair Beilstein's inquiry about when a budget recommendation will be made to Council so the UWBLC granting committee can work with a specific funding amount, Mr. Patterson said the Department Directors will begin budget discussions next week. Staff could have a recommended budget amount for social services by the end

of February, or well before the April agency presentations. UWBLC will accept applications prior to knowing the City's recommended funding amount.

Mr. Patterson noted that last year, as part of his background as a new City Manager, he learned that the ordinance related to social service allocations specifies an allocation amount of \$150,000. The amount has grown over time and as it relates to changes in the Council Policy. The ordinance was never amended.

Chair Beilstein referred to Councilor Sorte's inquiry about how Corvallis compares to other communities and said he understands that Corvallis is unique by dedicating property tax money for social services. Mr. Patterson said, based on the fact that Corvallis has an ordinance, he believes Corvallis is the only community in Oregon that dedicates property tax dollars for social services.

Councilor Sorte said Corvallis can still be compared to other communities, many of whom subcontract social services. Any community utilizing CDBG funds has a component for social services. Mr. Gibb clarified that CDBG communities have an opportunity to include social services, but it is not mandated.

Helen Higgins said BGCC has been in their current facility for 15 years. The scope and number of families using BGCC facilities have grown significantly. She submitted a handout of BGCC statistical information (Attachment 1) gleaned from membership data and children utilizing the after school clubhouse and Lincoln Lions Den. Of those included in the data, 71 percent come from homes with incomes less than \$45,000 per year. Half of those homes have at least two children, and 40 percent are single parent households.

Ms. Higgins said some people believe BGCC is only an athletics organization serving middle to high income families. The core of BGCC is to provide up to 500 children a safe place to go for approximately 300 days per year. Critical services are provided for 580 low income youth. BGCC supports economic development and self sufficiency for working families by providing a safe location for children until the end of the work day. BGCC currently serves youth ages five to 18. Programming for five-year-olds was added when the school district dropped all day kindergarten which created a gap in the community. BGCC reduces and prevents juvenile delinquency and juvenile crime. BGCC participates in the gang prevention task force. In collaboration with the City, Benton County, and Corvallis School District 509J, the task force has been very successful in keeping gang activity to a minimum.

Ms. Higgins noted that BGCC serves more than 600 meals per day. Homeless children are served and fed at the club. In an attempt to address a community gap for teen programming, BGCC initiated a pilot program to expand services for high school aged youth. Currently, there are 75 high school student members.

Ms. Higgins added that BGCC needs assistance to sustain services. BGCC is the primary organization for school aged children in the community and the organization continues to serve more youth as governments and school districts cut services.

Ms. Higgins referred to the "Formula for Impact" on page two of her handout. The right side of the page describes the BGCC core or mission. The left side is BGCC's exploration of their role in developing good kids and citizens. The Board of Directors is considering moving forward with preparing kids to do well by providing life readiness skills and assistance with academics. Grant funds would support career development, job shadowing, and bringing youth up to grade level academics. These programs are being pushed out of the schools and into after school programs. BGCC picked up the Lincoln Lions Den program after their grant expired. The Lions Den program costs approximately \$100,000 per year and helps youth increase their reading and math scores. A high school level career development program costs approximately \$500 per student. BGCC cannot keep providing this level of service without assistance. They do not receive state or federal funding and are primarily funded by donations and grants. Ms. Higgins thanked the City for the \$16,470 allocation they received last year. She clarified that the BGCC budget is \$550,000.

Gina Vee testified on behalf of CHSC and the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center (CDDC). These two non-profits serve the homeless and near homeless in Corvallis. The CDDC serves 1,000 individuals per year who may be chronically homeless, mentally ill, physically ill, and/or addicted. They may be new to homelessness with no skills on how to be homeless and no idea where to go for services. They are quite desperate and may be in denial.

A wide range of services are available through CHSC such as acquiring Social Security Disability and/or Income. Currently, 60 individuals are receiving mental health vouchers, income and/or housing assistance, and other help so they can become self sustaining.

Ms. Vee said Partners Place is a new 14-unit building that recently opened to provide housing for 14 chronically homeless individuals. Funding for that project was acquired from the Oregon Housing Community Services and a \$250,000 HOME Partnerships grant allocated by the City. A Housing+ grant was received to support a case manager and rent allowance. This Housing First model does not allow anyone into the program that uses drugs; however, they are not required to stop drinking prior to obtaining assistance. The program has been very successful in fulfilling the services for needed treatment, work, and other essentials.

Ms. Vee said CHSC is subsidizing children to keep them in housing. Donors have provided funds for the Women's and Children's Program, and families are identified with the help of the Adult Services Team. Through this program families who may have been evicted, cannot find housing, have difficulties making a full months rent, or have

other housing issues can acquire financial assistance to help keep them from becoming homeless.

Ms. Vee said the men's cold weather shelter lost their facility this year. Twenty-five different properties were considered before the current location was secured. The shelter is located at 530 SW 4th Street and serves 40 men each evening from 7:00 pm until 7:00 am. There are approximately 100 men who seek assistance at the shelter. Eighteen organizations provide volunteers which keeps overhead costs low. Two paid staff work nights and college student volunteers sleep at the shelter to provide backup for the paid staff. The community has been wonderful in volunteering their time.

Historically, the shelter received \$7,000 from the social services fund to help offset rent. This year, rent and utility costs tripled. Without the help of the City, Benton County, Samaritan Health Services, and others, CHSC could not have opened the shelter this year. CHSC is analyzing next steps.

Ms. Vee noted that all of the programs she has reviewed are dependent on social and human service funds and local donations. She added that homelessness is increasing partly due to the loss of low income housing.

Chair Beilstein commented that Ward 5 recently lost a large apartment complex that was designated for low income. An expensive student housing complex has been built in its place.

Councilor Sorte referred to the Council goal suggestions submitted by the community and said a few recommended a warming shelter. In response to his inquiry about who initiated these suggestions in light of the programs already available, Ms. Vee said she is not aware of who made the suggestions. She noted that the CDDC is not open on weekends.

Ms. Vee added that a priority of the Homeless Oversight Committee, chaired by Benton County Commissioner Dixon and Mayor Manning, is find long-term facilities for cold weather shelters. Community Outreach, Inc. provides shelter, but the individuals must be clean and sober for five days prior to being admitted. She explained that some homeless individuals self-medicate and the community does not have a detoxification center.

Councilor York reported that Ms. Vee has a doctorate in psychology and taught for many years at Linn Benton Community Center and the Benton Center.

Mr. Gibb announced that HSC can postpone making recommendations to Council until the January 22 HSC meeting, if preferred.

Chair Beilstein said he would prefer a funding goal be included in the policy, but does not believe Council would support it considering current budget constraints. He opined

that it was wise to propose removing the last paragraph under Section 6.05.050 Definitions (related to not funding long-term or preventive services) since it is difficult to draw a line between long-term/preventive and emergency/transitional.

Councilor Sorte said one of the most difficult things for non-profits is dealing with dramatic change. If the City cannot give a certainty in terms of what can be expected in a calculation or millage rate, perhaps consideration can be given to including a maximum percent change over time. This would keep changes to a known quantity. There may be similar policies that can be used as an example. He added that state financing is rarely completely eliminated. Instead, financial changes are addressed through percentage reductions or increases.

Councilor York said she supports the City's contribution to this fund. She stated concern about identifying a set amount in the policy and removing it from the budget process. The Council, Budget Commission, and City as a whole need flexibility in hard times and good times to establish the budget. She supports strong language to keep the fund, but not if it includes a set amount. She would not support language that includes maximum percentage changes as it creates an expectation.

Chair Beilstein said if language was added related to stability of funding and an emergency occurs or the City receives unexpected monies, the flexibility of the funding amount is lost. In the past, a set amount was increased by the annual CPI. When City Departments decreased their budgets by five percent, social service funding was decreased also. With no set plans for increases, the policy is entirely at the discretion of the City Manager.

Councilor York commented that the City Manager proposes the budget, but it is Council's responsibility to alter the budget as needed.

Chair Beilstein responded that staff drives budget recommendations. He opined that it is difficult for Council to overcome a staff recommendation related to the budget.

Councilor York said she hopes Council does a better job to make sure that whatever is brought forward to Council by the City Manager reflects what Council believes the City's values are within the necessities of the financial situation. She opined that the City Manager's proposed budget is just that and nothing more.

Councilor Sorte said Corvallis is the most affluent community in the state in terms of discretionary spending. A basic level of decency should be communicated in the policy. It is Council's responsibility, not the City Manager's, to determine the basic level of decency. If funding is going to be communicated in another way, Council should be bold enough to state that. This is not open to the discretion of the person needing to balance all budgetary areas. Council needs to pick out some areas that will not vary, such as police and fire. Kindness needs to be a part of that equation.

Mr. Patterson said in recognition of a community that has made significant investments and commitments to social services, an ordinance was created in the 1970s that states the social service funding is \$150,000. This law directs a specific amount. Over time, this morphed into social service allocations of almost \$500,000. The argument could be made that the City was out of compliance with the ordinance all of these years. The Council and Budget Commission, in approving those dollar amounts, did so as a way to be supportive and decent.

Mr. Patterson said his recommendation, as a part of the budget, comes forward to Council as staff's best estimate to balance the budget. It is nothing more than his recommendation as City Manager. Last year, the social services allocation was reduced by 5.07 percent. He referred to Councilor York's comments made during a work session about focusing on values and needs when these types of budget issues are considered. The Council and Budget Commission has all of the latitude required to make determinations based on one recommendation that comes from the City Manager. He said he felt a huge responsibility as the new City Manager, understanding how important social services is to this community and also knowing that the budget needed to be balanced.

Mr. Patterson said having a target amount in the policy could be helpful in some ways; however, flexibility is needed for the Budget Commission and Council. Mr. Patterson said he is aware of the need for a permanent location for the cold weather shelter. Last year the City asked for help to fund the shelter and many profit and non-profit community organizations generously gave. Corvallis is a generous community. City staff and Council can do better as a team to make sure that those who live in our community understand the real needs. Areas can be highlighted, such as BGCC adding new programs. Additional outreach can be conducted to those who may be apathetic or unaware of the needs. The upside was that staff made a recommendation, the Budget Commission and Council determined the fund amount, and when other needs arose, the community provided additional support when asked. As long as the City is committed to work with community partners, more may be accomplished than what would ever be included in policy. The question is whether the City is committed to do that. Mr. Patterson assured HSC members that he is committed to working with community partners to meet those needs.

Councilor Sorte said \$500,000 could be raised if every taxpayer in Corvallis gave up one or two lattes per month. Lumping social justice with public safety without any parameters causes fear to compete with decency or empathy. As government agencies and schools become financially stressed, they apply for more grants. This forces non-profits to compete with government agencies and schools for the same grant dollars. At the same time, additional activities are being pushed onto non-profits.

Mr. Patterson said, as a part of the budget process, staff took a specific strategy for a City-wide reduction to arrive at a balanced budget. Some strategies do not work year after year. In the current situation, simply cutting the budget is not the answer. Other concepts must be considered such as building in new taxes and raising fees, in addition to reducing some areas. It will be important for Council to discuss the priorities and determine the kind of taxes and/or fees needed to cover those priorities. Council must be clear about what they want. All nine Councilors, as a body for the community, need to make these decisions and direct staff.

Mr. Patterson said he never considered this policy with a dedicated amount to dictate what he thought personally was the right thing to do. He spoke with many local non-profits and spent time trying to understand what they do for the community. He added that he lives here also and he cares about Corvallis. He stated appreciation that HSC is not questioning whether it is an issue of him making the correct recommendation. It is about everyone in the community getting to a place where we can agree about the things we hold to be most important. Hearing from agencies puts more responsibility on Council to work with staff to figure out how to get to that place.

Mr. Patterson said a different approach will need to be taken to balance the budget this year. Last year, he does not recall Ms. Higgins reporting about additional items BGCC took on. Things have changed within one year and there are new challenges. Working with Department Directors he will make a budget recommendation. Council will then decide what they would like that may be different from his recommendation. Regardless, staff will follow Council's direction with zest.

Mr. Patterson said dealing with social services is always difficult because it is about people and how much this community cares. It is about compassion as a community and what we are willing to invest in.

Chair Beilstein proposed delaying action on the policy until the second meeting in January. He requested Councilor Sorte draft language that can be considered within the funding source section of the policy. He noted that Councilor Sorte can consult with staff. Councilor Sorte agreed and said he would also check with other communities.

Chair Beilstein said the existing priorities of emergency and transitional services has been re-examined annually. He inquired whether a different statement would be useful for the UWBLC granting committee. Ms. Moore responded that the committee has grappled with the priorities for years; however, they do not have any better recommendation.

Councilor York agreed to draft proposed language to include mental health in the definitions section of the policy.

Mr. Gibb noted that the allocations calendar will need to be revised. HSC can make a recommendation at the January 22 meeting and Council can take action at the

February 4 meeting. Staff will provide HSC a five to 10 year review of allocations for human services, social services, and the general funding provided by UWBLC. UWBLC will also provide a profile of what programs have been funded during the last five years through emergency and transitional services.

## II. Other Business

- Meeting time/date – Chair Beilstein announced that the current HSC meeting time will not work for Councilor York. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee determined that 2:00 pm on the Tuesday of Council week would work for all members. Mr. Patterson agreed to discuss this with Assistant to City Manager/City Recorder Louie.
- Budget process – Chair Beilstein said, in relation to the ability of Council and the Budget Commission to form the budget, he forwarded 13 budget amendments during the last budget approvals and although all 13 received seconds, none were approved. He opined that by the time staff presents a budget, it is difficult to convince anyone to challenge the City Manager's recommendations. As a Councilor, he does not feel empowered to have much influence by the time the budget is presented to the Budget Commission and/or Council. That is part of the reason he would appreciate a goal or guideline in the social services policy related to funding amounts.

Councilor York said she had no intention of running for Council until she read an article in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* related to Council's adoption of the budget. The article spoke of attempts to stop Chair Beilstein from making amendments. It is the role of the Budget Commission and Council to review the proposed budget, entertain amendments, and hold the discussion in a public setting.

Mr. Patterson said the Council, as a body of nine members, has as much authority as they want to do what they choose. The recommendation by the City Manager is only a recommendation. It takes five votes to adopt or pass a motion. The Council includes very politically astute, bright, and caring people.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Beilstein, Chair

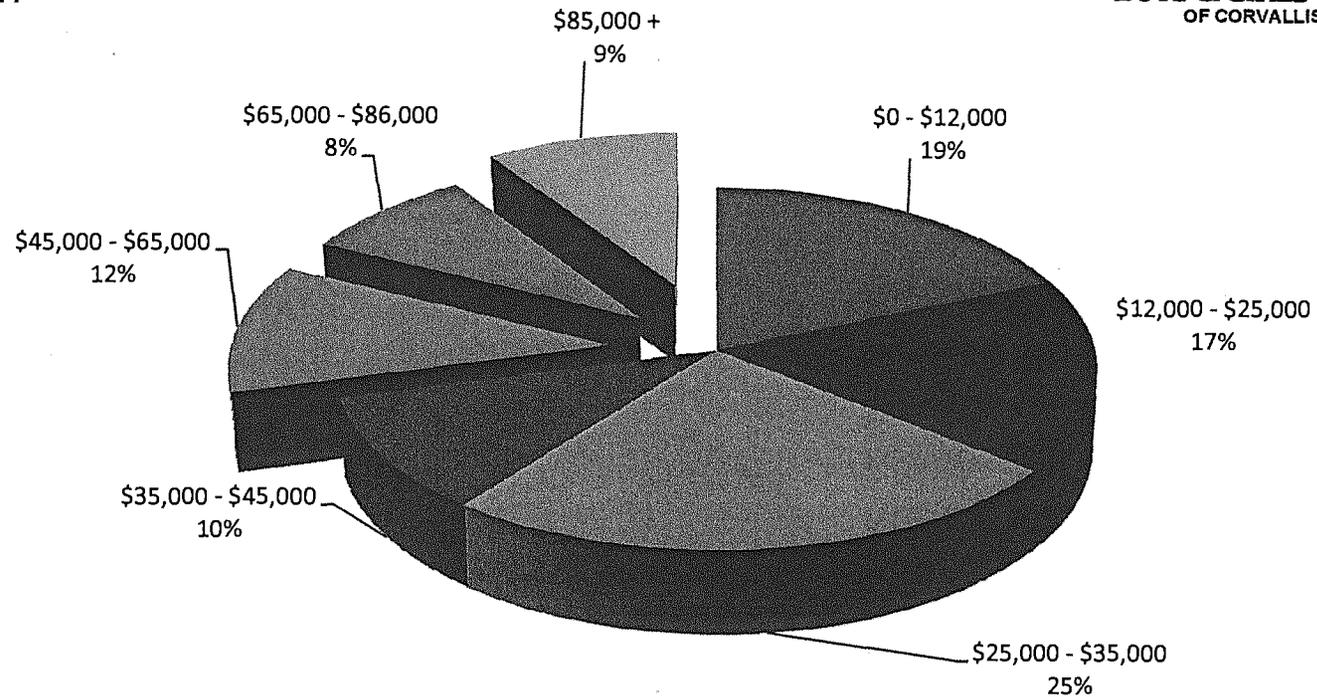


**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF CORVALLIS

BGCC – who we serve  
for afterschool & non-  
school day care

**2012-13**  
**Clubhouse**  
**Family Income**  
**71% < \$45K**

N=818 members



- BGCC provides critical services for ~580 low-income youth nearly 300 days/year
- Supports economic development and self sufficiency goals for working families
- Provides a safe, supervised place for youth age 5-18
- Prevent/reduce juvenile crime, gang involvement
- Provide over 600 meals a day at all our locations
- Addressing community gap for teen programming through pilot expansion
- BGCC needs help to sustain our community youth center moving forward



# Formula for Impact

## Meeting Essential Needs

Safe, fun, & affordable to all  
300+ days/year  
860+ kids served daily  
80+ youth development staff  
Johnson Dental Clinic  
600 healthy meals each day

## Life Readiness

Hands on job training  
Supporting career pathways  
Help with access to higher ed.  
A plan for their future

## Enrichment

Essential life skills  
Homework help  
Mentoring  
Leadership  
Community service  
Art, music, technology  
Organized team sports

## Academics

Getting youth to grade level  
Tutoring, goal setting  
100% graduation goals

BGCC's Core

*A good kid...*

*... prepared to do well*

*BGCC exploring our role in supporting.....*