

TO: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
FROM: Mary Rumbaugh, Director of Health, Housing and Human Services
RE: Supportive Housing Services Performance Audit
DATE: March 18, 2025

REQUEST: Staff requests Board direction on whether to proceed with a performance audit of the County's homeless services system funded through the Supportive Housing Services measure or to collaborate with Metro under their oversight authority.

BACKGROUND: On February 25, 2025, the Board discussed the idea of performance audit to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of homeless services funded by the Supportive Housing Services measure, both within the County and across the region.

A performance audit would provide actionable insights that support strategic decisions about program expansion or modifications. The purpose would be to align programs with best practices and ensure adaptability to the evolving needs of homeless populations.

This audit would not be a financial audit. A financial audit ensures the accuracy and compliance of an organization's financial statements, confirming that financial transactions are correctly documented and in accordance with relevant standards. The County already conducts regular annual financial audits for all of its funding.

In contrast, a performance audit will evaluate whether the homeless services and programs offered by the County and region achieve the desired impact and deliver value commensurate with the resources allocated to them. Staff believes that performance audits should be conducted across all three counties.

As stipulated by the intergovernmental agreement, Metro's 5% Administrative Fund is specifically designated for audit expenses. Without Metro's funding, the audit would not be feasible. By engaging Metro early in the process, staff can ensure that the necessary resources are available to carry out the audit and address any issues that may arise during its execution. To ensure an independent, quality audit, the Clackamas County Internal Auditor will also be engaged in strategic development of the audit design and approach.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to begin planning with Metro to conduct a performance audit of Supportive Housing Services in Clackamas County and the region.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Rumbaugh

Director, Department of Health, Housing & Human Services