

# SUMMARY REPORT

## UMATILLA & MORROW COUNTIES

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Promote regional collaboration through funding and technical support. [\[1\]](#)
2. Provide funds and support for implementation of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs. [\[2\]](#)
3. Address rural barriers to care by bringing services directly to the communities. [\[3\]](#)
4. Increase the availability of affordable housing and supportive housing. [\[4\]](#)
5. Strengthen the continuum of care in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. [\[5\]](#)
6. Proposal for a “one stop shop” model multipurpose campus. (See immediate funding opportunities.) [\[6\]](#)

### UMATILLA & MORROW GRANTEE PARTNERS

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Douglas Latinas International

Umatilla County\*

Homestead Youth & Family Services, Inc. (HYFS)\*

Morrow County ROCKit\*

\*Grantees collaborated on a multi-stakeholder community ROCKit process.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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1. **Promote regional collaboration through funding and technical support.** All Umatilla and Morrow County grantees emphasized the need for more local and regional collaboration.
  - 1.1. Douglas Latinas recommended offering specific funding and technical support to encourage the **creation of local coalitions** among CBOs and other providers. Long-term funding can support these coalitions as they implement programs, says Douglas Latinas, for example through culturally and linguistically specific programs.
  - 1.2. Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit noted that leveraging financial resources could also play a role in coordination by **funding a pool of services**, in contrast to siloed reimbursement. Within their own network, these three grantees aimed for greater collaboration by “ensuring the availability of shared data, appropriate transitions of care, and/or rapid access to appropriate BH housing services.”
  - 1.3. Grantees Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit already show a high capacity for cross-county coordination in their partnership for this grant. They aim to further their regional collaboration through a capital development project. Through their ROCKit community engagement process, the participants created a vision of a multipurpose campus to serve as a **“one stop shop” for services**.
    - 1.3.1. The **“one stop shop”** model would offer support across the care continuum, from prevention to aftercare, including drop-in services, counseling, crisis intervention, and detox. The site

would coordinate referrals to existing community resources by communicating with providers, social services, law enforcement, and community-based organizations, and could triage to find the best housing options for those in need.

- 1.3.2. By bringing many services under one roof, the “one stop shop” would close gaps in the continuum of care and promote collaboration between service providers.
- 1.3.3. Additionally, it would provide much-needed local infrastructure, reduce stigma, and become “a known and trusted drop-in center where community members can feel safe and supported.” (See Immediate Funding Opportunities below for more information.)

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– Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit

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2. **Provide funds and support for the implementation of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs.** Grantees identified a large and ongoing service gap in the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs in Umatilla and Morrow Counties.
  - 2.1. Specifically, the **region has no programs** to support culturally and linguistically specific housing projects, and it has few cultural behavioral health services.
  - 2.2. Long-term funding and technical assistance are essential for the implementation of culturally and linguistically specific programs in the region, say grantees.
  - 2.3. Doulas Latinas, who serves the Latino community and other marginalized groups in rural Oregon, emphasizes the need for cultural services to be both available and legitimate. “Some organizations might state they offer such services, but it is known and discussed by our Latino partners that this lack of cultural support is real,” says Doulas Latinas.
  - 2.4. To implement adequate cultural services, **proposed projects should engage community-based organizations** who have cultural and linguistic expertise during the implementation phase, says Doulas Latinas. Engagement with organizations with cultural expertise is essential for the development of all new projects. Likewise, Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit explained how their proposed project would follow this approach: “Leaders involved in the implementation of this “one stop shop” would also consult with community organizations to ensure that all services provided are both culturally and linguistically appropriate.”
  - 2.5. However, there should be funds and support available to the cultural organizations themselves, along with **a certain degree of freedom** to implement their own culturally and linguistically appropriate programs in the region.
3. **Address rural barriers to care.** The rural geography of Umatilla and Morrow Counties creates a barrier to service for many of its residents. Resources that are located Hermiston, Pendleton, and other cities often do not reach the rural areas of the counties.

- 3.1. For those without a driver's license, transportation access is a barrier to services, housing, and employment opportunities.
- 3.2. The distance from services is especially impactful in **behavioral health services**, as often the Behavioral Health Centers with openings are too far away from a person's community and family.
  - 3.2.1. "Rural communities are significantly underserved in behavioral health, and face significantly worse BH outcomes than their urban counterparts due to lack of access to care," says the partnership between Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit.
  - 3.2.2. These organizations proposed their "one stop shop" model for a resource center to improve access to behavioral health in the region. In addition to the main campus proposed, their "one stop shop" would include **satellite offices** across Umatilla and Morrow counties to increase access to counseling and crisis intervention services.
    - 3.2.2.1. Creating a site for behavioral health services and bringing the services directly to rural communities would help improve behavioral health inequities and would help reach underserved and marginalized groups.
- 3.3. The **Latino farmworkers community** is one such group that is underserved in the region. Says Doulas Latinas, "Health inequities among our Latino-Indigenous-farmworkers is a growing issue and should be considered a real concern for our state." Rural service outreach using cultural and linguistically appropriate practices would improve the outcomes for this community.

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– Doulas Latinas

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4. **Increase the availability of affordable housing and supportive housing.** Umatilla and Morrow Counties need more options for affordable housing, as well as supportive and transitional housing.
  - 4.1. Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit found that the region specifically needs more **acute care housing, dual mental health and substance abuse treatment facility and homes, and transitional housing.**
  - 4.2. Doulas Latinas heard from respondents about a **loss of affordable housing** in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Access to affordable housing is even lower for Latino farmworkers who may have behavioral health issues.
    - 4.2.1. Doulas Latinas sought to make sure that these communities did not lose access to the few current housing options available in the region, and that individuals were not losing the places they currently live due to new development, or to raising rental costs to levels they could not afford.
5. **Strengthen the continuum of care in Umatilla and Morrow Counties.** Grantees concluded that gaps in the continuum of care represented a large service barrier for the region.

- 5.1. These gaps for people with lived experience included access to counselors outside of residential facilities, services to help individuals transition back into the community, skill training, peer support, and safe and accessible housing or shelter. Access to services to help people transition from residential facilities, assist in continued recovery and reintegration into the community, and bolster their own sense of purpose would improve their recovery outcomes.
- 5.2. Additionally, it would reduce the need for admissions and re-admissions for behavioral health services: “Strengthening the continuum of care and access to affordable housing are necessary to help prevent admission and/or readmissions to scarce BH residential facilities,” states Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit.
- 5.2.1. For a more effective use of services, these partners propose their “one stop shop” that would bring services together across the continuum of care and close the enduring gaps.

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## IMMEDIATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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- ❖ Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit propose building a **“one-stop shop” model, multipurpose campus**. The project would act as one site to streamline coordination of services in the region. It would serve as a safe drop-in center, treatment, and detox facility, provide housing referrals, and deliver a range of support services across the continuum of care. The drop-in center approach would help reduce stigma and help the center become a trusted community site. Creating the “one stop shop” would involve investing in land and could either consist of newly constructed buildings or repurposed existing buildings. In addition, the center would include satellite offices across Umatilla and Morrow Counties. The site would be designed in conjunction with community-based organizations to ensure that all programs are culturally and linguistically appropriate.

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“I know where to go for drugs, but not where to go for support.”

– Lived Experience Ambassador, speaking with Umatilla County, HYFS, and Morrow County ROCKit

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