# SHARE THE VISION AND JOIN US

The Partnership and Community Action Teams (CATs) are building relationships with Partner organizations then attacking poverty at its roots. We're mobilizing a broad cross-section of the public who can bring clarity, ideas, action, and contributions.

#### OUR COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS



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# WELCOME TO THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN CENTRAL OREGON: POVERTY



Poverty is a real, serious, and growing problem—right here, in our neighborhoods.

If poverty were a city, then based on economics alone its population of 18,261 would rank it ahead of Redmond at 12,300 and behind Bend at 50,740.

#### **About the Partnership**

The Central Oregon Partnership was formed in August 2001 to engage a broad cross section of citizens in breaking cycles of poverty by addressing its roots root causes.

It is comprised of a Regional Office and seven Community Action Teams (CATs) in: Bend, La Pine, Madras, Prineville / Crook County, Redmond, Sisters, and Warm Springs.

#### We serve as:

Advocates: Raise awareness about poverty in our communities and in the region, engage local citizens in efforts to break the cycles of poverty.

**Planners:** Identify community priorities and points of highest leverage for breaking cycles of poverty.

Catalysts: Build collaborations to address community priorities for cycle breaking work, provide support for the collaborative work at the community level by encouraging volunteer support and by raising funds.

Learners: Evaluate what works and what is less effective, share the knowledge. Celebrate the success of those who are making a difference—individuals, project teams, organizations.

#### We accomplish our Mission through:

Each Action Team is engaged with local citizens in work to break cycles of poverty and assist those in the lowest economic quartile to build personal and financial assets for a better future for themselves and their children.

#### The Partnership works in collaboration

with existing public agencies and private sector organizations to implement new initiatives and attract new sources of funding at the local and regional level.

We're the Central Oregon Partnership, a regional non-profit 501 (c)3 organization comprised of seven Community Action Teams (CATs).

We're on a mission to reduce poverty, and improve the quality of life for all of us in central Oregon.

We're building an environment for action that engages a broad cross-section of citizens, organizations, and agencies. The values of collaboration, inclusiveness, and knowledge are our compass.





# TOGETHER WE CAN BREAK THE CYCLES OF POVERTY

- Family history of poverty
- **2** Chronic conditions
- 3 Limited economic opportunity
- 4 Inadequate educational and training opportunities
- **5** Racial/cultural isolation or discrimination
- **6** Weak family structures
- Weak traditions of civic engagement and limited social capital
- 8 Limited community awareness and inclusiveness
- Quantification

# Poverty is a solvable problem, not a chronic affliction

We're focused on solutions which target the 9 basic root causes of poverty, and break their cycles in a meaningful, long-term way.

The overwhelming majority of poor people have multiple conditions keeping them poor:

None of poverty's root causes by itself necessarily condemns one to a life of impoverishment. But combinations create a cycle of poverty that's difficult to break.

# A bottom-up, inclusive, collaborative approach—that works

Collaboration is essential to the successful reduction of poverty. Our inclusive approach involves everyone—those caught in poverty's cycle, those who provide services to the poor, the business community, and volunteers.

### We have the plans, commitment and funding to make a real difference

The Partnership was formed as the result of two years of planning, and a ten-year commitment from the Northwest Area Foundation (NWAF). Provided milestones are met, the NWAF has pledged \$11.7 million in funds which we'll leverage to \$50 million worth of difference.

#### Adding value without duplication

The Partnership serves as a catalyst, organizer, and collaboration builder. We don't provide services directly to those in poverty; that's what our Partners do. We don't compete with or supplant the important work of these organizations. Rather, we amplify their efforts by incorporating them in a larger, integrated solution that reduces poverty and even prevents it.

# BUILDING THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY

Unchecked, poverty erodes the quality of life for everyone in our community. It is our shared problem.

Think about it. Radiating from a single neighbor in poverty are financial ripples which touch us all. Unemployment and minimum wages for individuals translate into declining revenue for retailers. In turn, fewer tax dollars limit our communities' capacity to grow and prosper.

When one of us hurts, we all suffer.

For a person without comprehensive help with the basic needs of employment, shelter, transportation, education, nutrition, and health care—life quickly spirals into a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break.



# I S I O

Central Oregon Partnership will strive to create one of the most livable regions in the United States by integrating into all aspects of community development and decision-making a powerful commitment to the effective, long-term reduction of poverty

#### COLLABORATION KNOWLEDGE INCLUSION

#### MISSION

Through regional collaboration and local action, the Partnership will influence the positive development of Central Oregon by reducing the root causes of poverty