MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY HOMELESS ALLIANCE

MOVING TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Collaborative Committee

Survey Results

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PURPOSE

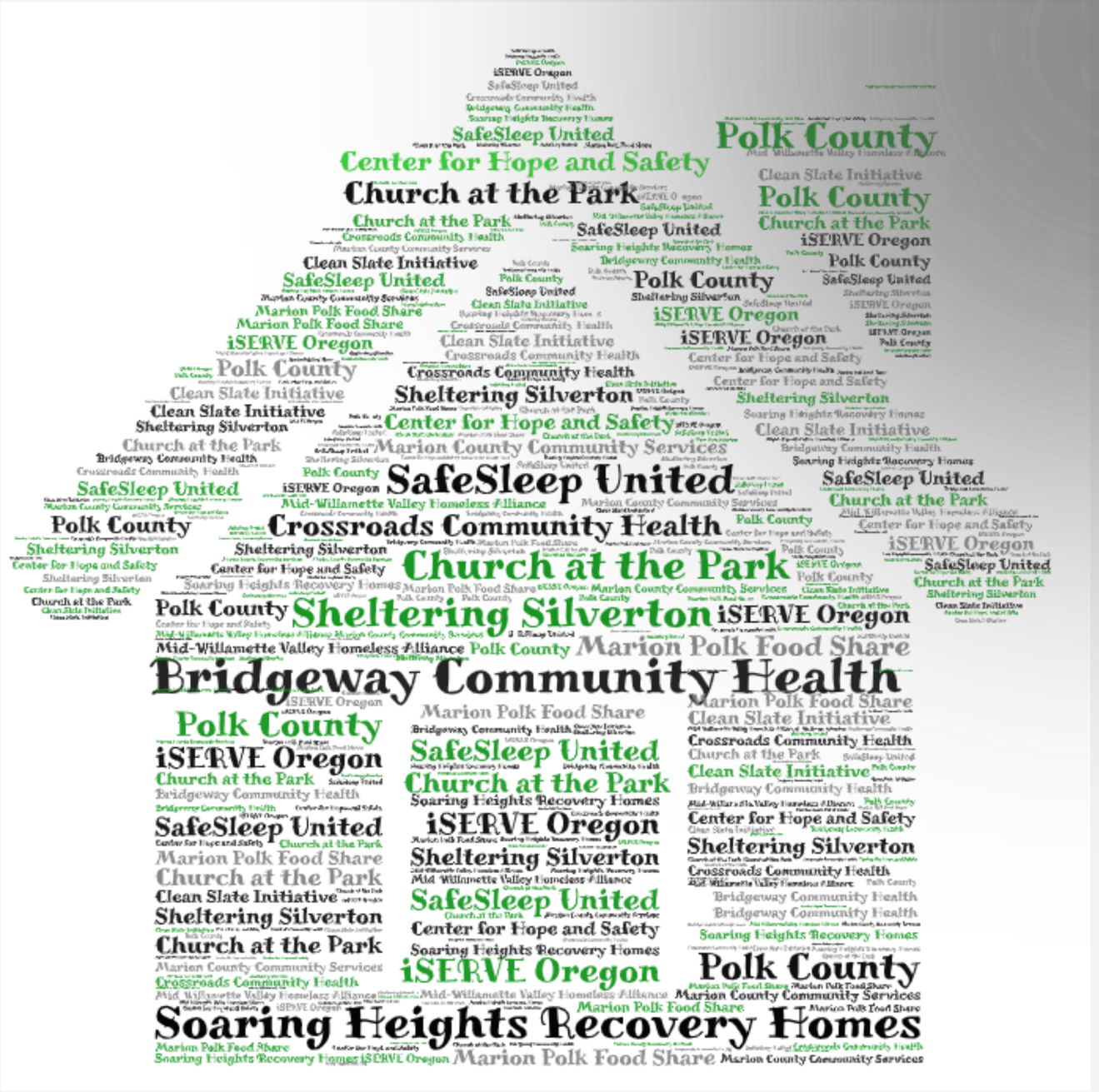
To understand the challenges our community partners are facing in relation to current funding uncertainties

To learn what strategies are helping them adapt and share those insights across the network to support each other

To inform how the Alliance and Collaborative Committee can take responsive action.

MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

VARIOUS FUNDING SOURCES



KEY SECTIONS & FOCUS AREAS

ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY AND BUDGET CONCERNS

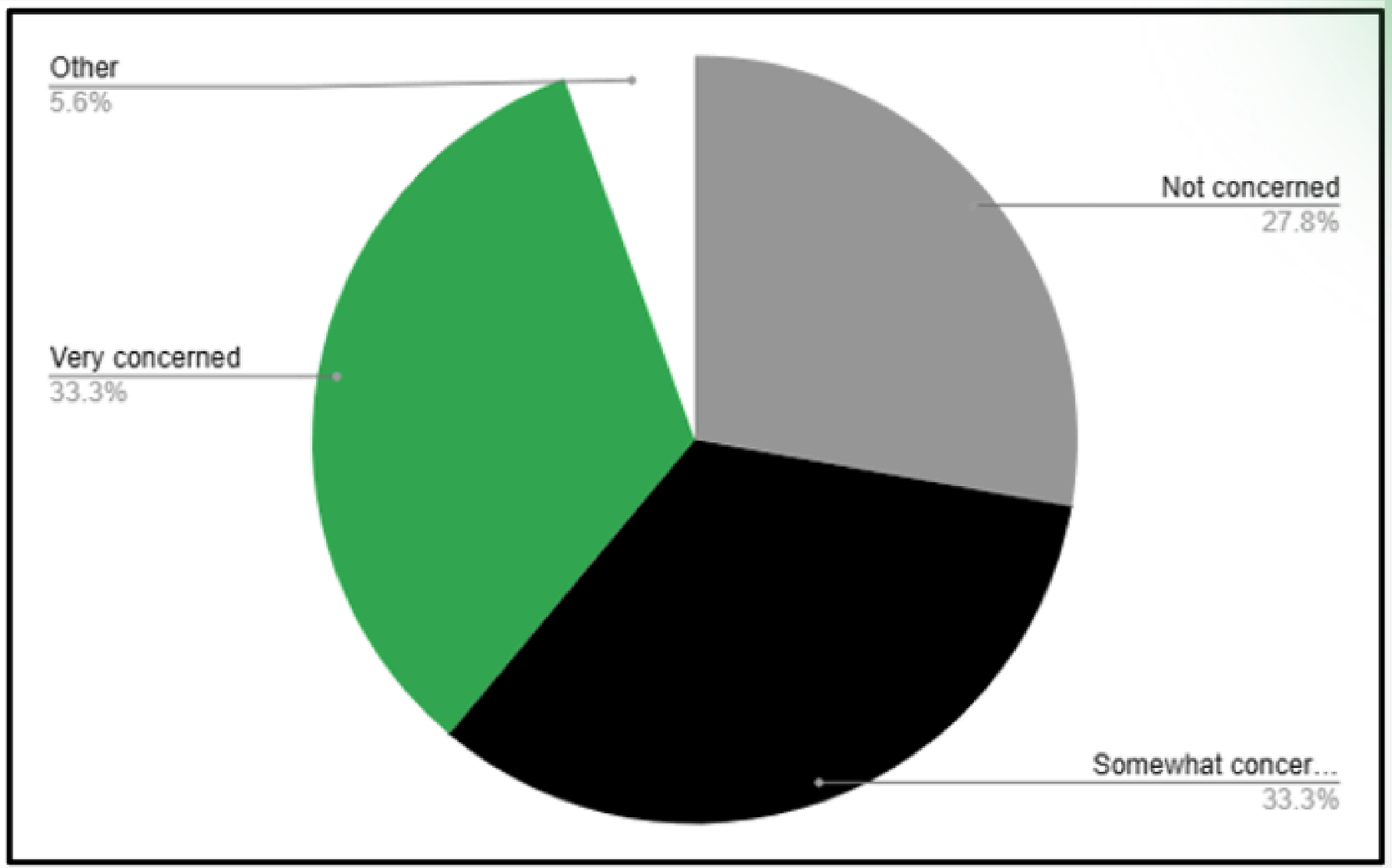
SERVICE DELIVERY AND CLIENT IMPACT

STAFF & MORALE

COLLABORATION & PEER LEARNING

ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY AND BUDGET CONCERNS

HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION'S FINANCIAL STABILITY OVER THE NEXT SIX TO TWELEVE MONTHS?



HOW ORGANIZATIONS ARE PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING CUTS.

REDUCING COSTS & IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Cutting overhead and improving workflows

Increasing billable services

Leaving staff vacancies unfilled; RIF planning

Scaling back services (e.g., weekend programs, case management)

HOW ORGANIZATIONS ARE PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING CUTS.

REDUCING COSTS & IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Strengthening Partnerships & Community Engagement

Building cross-sector collaborations (legal, academic, community)

Appealing to local community & donors for support

Partnering with groups like MWVCAA & MWVHA

HOW ORGANIZATIONS ARE PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL FUNDING CUTS.

REDUCING COSTS & IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

Adaptive & Strategic Planning

Engaging in scenario planning

Establishing shared service platforms

Building small operational reserves (e.g., 2 months)

Suspending new program development

SERVICE DELIVERY AND CLIENT IMPACT

TOP OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES REPORTED BY ORGANIZATIONS

STAFFING & WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

Staffing shortages, staff retention, burnout

Workforce shortages, capacity constraints

Payroll challenges and cash flow irregularities

Impact on shelter capacity, service delivery, and data/reporting timeliness

TOP OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES REPORTED BY ORGANIZATIONS

CAPACITY & SERVICE LIMITATION

Lack shelter options for families with children

Cannot move forward on teen program development

Limited capacity due to licensing, administrative costs

TOP OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES REPORTED BY ORGANIZATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE & SYSTEMS CHALLENGES

Inconsistent or siloed data/reporting requirements

Lack of flexible funding for innovation or prevention

Barriers to cross-sector partnerships (legal, digital, clinical)

Transparency gaps: difficulty explaining service options to clients

TOP OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES REPORTED BY ORGANIZATIONS

EXTERNAL & POLICY-RELATED BARRIERS

Regulatory or policy changes (gender-affirming care, immigration enforcement, Medicare billing)

Closure of key services (e.g., LGBTQ+ 988 crisis line)

Reduction in food supply and government funding

A POSITIVE PIECE OF ADVICE FROM A SEASONED EXPERT IN OUR FIELD

“I’ve grinned and borne it for 21 years, trying to figure out federal budgets. You’re better off just keeping a positive attitude. There are a lot of ups and downs in the schedule and across different administrations. The biggest thing you can do is keep doing what you’re doing until you’re told otherwise.”

-Nicole Utz
Housing Administrator
Salem Housing Authority

HOW ARE THESE CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE CLIENTS YOU SERVE?

STAFFING & RESOURCE SHORTAGES

Limited funding and staffing are preventing organizations from meeting rising client needs, especially in homeless prevention, outreach, behavioral health and physical health services.

SERVICE GAPS FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Families, youth, older adults and rural residents face significant barriers, including lack of shelter options, long wait times and higher per-client service costs due to geographic disparities.

HOW ARE THESE CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE CLIENTS YOU SERVE?

INCREASED FINANCIAL STRAIN ON CLIENTS

Rising rents, household costs and out-of-pocket expenses are pushing more clients toward financial instability, increasing demand for support that agencies struggle to meet.

SYSTEMIC AND POLICY CHALLENGES

Federal policy changes are creating fear among clients seeking care, and fragmented systems fail to address complex, multi-generational or culturally specific needs, deepening disengagement.

HOW ARE THESE CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE CLIENTS YOU SERVE?

ORGANIZATIONAL INSTABILITY

Cash flow issues and financial uncertainty within organizations add to the strain, making it harder to deliver consistent services.

CREATIVE CHANGES & STRATEGIES REPORTED BY PARTNERS

STAFFING & WORKFORCE ADAPTATION

Shared/co-employed staff across partner organizations

Increased use of volunteers and interns

Flexible, committed teams adjusting priorities and schedule

CREATIVE CHANGES & STRATEGIES REPORTED BY PARTNERS

COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Increasing cross-partner collaboration to maximize efficiency

Engaging people with lived experience to co-design solutions

Using public education tools and surveys to invite broader collaboration

CREATIVE CHANGES & STRATEGIES REPORTED BY PARTNERS

COMMUNICATION & MORALE

Transparent internal/external communication (e.g., rapid response teams, staff updates)

Maintaining motivation through shared mission and community connection

STAFF & MORALE

WHAT'S HELPING TEAMS STAY MOTIVATED AND SUPPORTED?

MISSION-DRIVEN WORK

Staff stay motivated by their deep commitment to serving clients, knowing their work makes a meaningful difference in people's lives.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNICATION

Strong leadership, regular updates, clear communication and thoughtful messaging help inspire teamwork, resilience and operational focus.

WHAT'S HELPING TEAMS STAY MOTIVATED AND SUPPORTED?

RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT

Teams appreciate recognition through staff shout-outs, celebrations, peer support and inclusion in collaborative spaces.

WORKPLACE WELL-BEING

Competitive pay, work-life balance, generous PTO and self-care opportunities help sustain morale.

WHAT'S HELPING TEAMS STAY MOTIVATED AND SUPPORTED?

INNOVATION & VISION

Designing new solutions and embracing fresh approaches (like digital tools or restorative models) gives teams hope and a sense of forward momentum.

ADAPTABILITY & STABILITY

Confidence in organization's stability, proactive planning and flexibility to adjust roles or strategies reduce anxiety during uncertain times.

COLLABORATION & PEER LEARNING

STRATEGIES & PRACTICES HELPING ORGANIZATIONS STAY AFLOAT

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION & PLANNING

Frequent team meetings, scenario planning, and clear prioritization help organizations adjust and stay focused.

FINANCIAL DIVERSIFICATION AND CAUTION

Diversifying income streams (like fee-for-service models, property rentals, revised grants), maintaining funding reserves, tracking finances carefully, and only expanding when sustainable.

STRATEGIES & PRACTICES HELPING ORGANIZATIONS STAY AFLOAT

INTENTIONAL SLOW GROWTH

Growing gradually and deliberately, avoiding debt, and ensuring there’s a clear path before scaling up.

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Building strong relationships with funders, partners, and cross-sector teams to fill service gaps and share resources — ideally coordinated at an Alliance level.

STRATEGIES & PRACTICES HELPING ORGANIZATIONS STAY AFLOAT

MISSION-FIRST FOCUS

Staying grounded in the core mission — focusing on people over programs and centering lived experience and dignity in service delivery.

TOP PEER SUPPORT & RESOURCE NEEDS

GRANT WRITING & FUNDING SUPPORT

Help with grant writing, identifying funding streams, securing letters of support, and navigating billing and financial planning.

SHARED STAFFING & OPERATIONAL MODELS

Interest in shared staffing models, fiscal sponsorship options, and access to operational tools or training, especially for peer staff.

TOP PEER SUPPORT & RESOURCE NEEDS

COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY & ACTION

Strong desire for the Alliance to lead collective advocacy efforts, build relationships across sectors, and take concrete actions to address service gaps.

RESOURCE & INFORMATION SHARING

Opportunities for partners to share specific needs, collaborate on solutions, and regularly connect with Alliance staff and each other.

TOP PEER SUPPORT & RESOURCE NEEDS

INNOVATION & CO-DESIGN

Space to co-create and test bold new ideas like wellness protocols, social technology, or equity-focused initiatives.

PEER-LED SUPPORT & MORALE BUILDING

Peer spaces for connection, healing, and meaning-making, along with strategies to address burnout, boost morale, and strengthen team resilience.

WHAT SUPPORT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FROM THE ALLIANCE?

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FUNDING SUPPORT

Requests for more funding to cover barriers like deposits, home repairs, capital needs, operational costs, and innovation or pilot programs. Especially those led by people with lived experience.

STRONGER COMMUNICATION

Desire for regular, clear, and consistent updates — even when details are limited — to reduce stress, build trust, and keep partners informed on funding availability, timelines, and reporting expectations.

WHAT SUPPORT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FROM THE ALLIANCE?

COLLABORATION & COORDINATION

Help in connecting partners, sharing resources, coordinating problem-solving efforts, and creating action-oriented spaces (not just discussion) to address shared challenges.

CAPACITY & ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Interest in administrative or fiscal sponsorship for grassroots initiatives and clarity on systems like HMIS, rent calculations, and allowable activities under supported services.

WHAT SUPPORT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FROM THE ALLIANCE?

POLICY & SYSTEMS-LEVEL ADVOCACY

Support in bridging gaps between sectors like behavioral health, housing, legal, and tech, and advancing policy solutions that promote integrated, person-centered care.

THANK YOU


iSERVE Oregon
SafeSleep United
Crossroads Community Health
Bridgeway Community Health
Soaring Heights Recovery Homes
SafeSleep United
Center for Hope and Safety
Church at the Park
Polk County
Clean Slate Initiative
Polk County
Church at the Park
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Sheltering Silverton
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