

## RHIP and COVID-19 MINI-GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

### COVID-19 Final Report for Addictions Studies and Human Services at Central Oregon Community College (Non-RHIP)

#### “Addictions Studies at COCC Scholarship Year Two”

Reviewed by the Behavioral Health: Increase Access & Coordination Workgroup

#### Summary of Results:

- Funding provided scholarships for COCC students specifically pursuing their degree in Addiction Studies or Human Services.
- There were two students who benefited from this scholarship in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Each student received a portion of the funding.
- Each student received \$2250, and both attended part time (COCC foundation was allocated \$500 for managing the funds).
- Each student took two classes each term throughout the year, both earning B's or higher in all classes.
- Both students are working toward their goal of becoming Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors (CADC).
- There is a lack of CADC's in Central Oregon.
- At a recent Advisory Board meeting every agency shared that they were in need of hiring a CADC and had been for some time.
- There is a growing need in the community likely due to several factors.
- One, due to the pandemic and increasing numbers of people seeking treatment services.
- Two, theoretically, funding from ballot measure 110 coming to treatment centers.
- Three, due to housing costs, people cannot move from out of the area to live in Central Oregon to work at a living wage job (one must already live here).
- Both students identify as being in recovery which often poses a challenge in finding a job (due to stigma and discrimination).
- While this is not true in substance use treatment employment, it is true in many other fields.

#### Quotes:

"I plan on becoming an addictions counselor here in Bend. My goal is to work at Best Care for the first 3 years then open my own private practice. I want to be different than the usual addiction counselor and add the importance of health and mindfulness to my practice."

"This money awarded will help me progress forward on my overall academic goal of becoming a CADC and help lessen the financial stress on my family and I."