

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **New program provides rental assistance; habilitation services to individuals with serious mental illness in Lane Co.**

*Shangri-La's Rental Assistant Program launched services Feb. 1*

*Eugene, Ore.* -- Shangri-La's Rental Assistance Program (S-RAP) began providing rental assistance and habilitation services to people with serious mental illness who are homeless or at risk of being homeless in Lane County on Feb. 1, 2016.

Through a partnership with the *Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division*, the program will provide services that: Support individuals in obtaining and remaining in housing.

- Increase the skills and income of participants.
- Teach participants how to be successful tenants.
- Help individuals achieve greater self-determination and sufficiency.

The program is available to individuals with serious mental illness who are homeless and/or:

- Under the supervision of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB), be involved with parole and probation, or the public safety system in Lane County.
- Being released from the Oregon State Hospital or a Residential Treatment Facility to the rural areas of Lane County. These areas include: Veneta, Cottage Grove, Junction City, Mapleton and Florence.

Thirty-percent of a participant's monthly adjusted income is designated for rent and utilities. Shangri-La pays the remaining amount. A current income is not required to qualify. Participants will apply for resources that can lead to the obtainment of permanent housing.

While enrolled in S-RAP, participants can also apply to receive additional habilitation services that can aid an individual in attaining or maintaining greater independence. Supports can include: personal hygiene coaching, meal preparation, medication administration, adaptive skill coaching, community mobility assistance, communication supports, nurse-delegated tasks and nutrition supports.

"Our goal is to provide positive solutions for people in our community who are facing some pretty serious barriers. We believe the road to recovery starts with a safe and stable place to live. From there, we can help participants build skills that will, overtime, lead to hopefully more encouraging outcomes for them and the community," said LaJeana Boss, Home and Community Based Services Manager.

The program has a capacity to serve 30 individuals at any given time.

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### **BACKGROUND**

S-RAP is a program of Shangri-La. Founded in 1963, Shangri-La is a diverse non-profit human services organization serving individuals with disabilities and disadvantages so that they may recognize and achieve their full potential. Housing, employment and enrichment services are provided at over 100 locations in the Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast.