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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
2 March, 2022

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Utah Legislature Approves Homeless Services Bill**

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH: Utah House Bill 440, Homeless Services Amendments, was approved by the Utah House and Senate March 1, 2022. An amount of \$5,800,000 will provide loan repayment assistance to homeless shelters, and \$5,000,000 will be dispersed to eligible municipalities. Additional money from the Homeless Shelter Cities Mitigation Account is funded by sales and use tax revenue.

“I appreciate the leadership of Representative Steve Eliason in sponsoring this important bill and all of the background and preparation that was put into it by Representative Dan Johnson,” said Cache County Executive David Zook, who serves as Chairman of the Bear River Homeless Council and advocated for the funds. “Funding to support homeless services will help us to serve some of the most vulnerable members of our community.”

The bill will provide financial support of mitigation services for cities with homeless shelters, using a formula depending on the municipality size as well as an application process.

Mitigation funding is for public safety and other services to assist with the impacts of an eligible shelter in the community. For municipalities that qualify for first tier funding, which accounts for more than 90% of the mitigation funds, it will also provide support for overflow shelter capacity in those cities with homeless shelters serving at least 200 individuals during the coldest months of October 1 to April 30.

The Bear River Homeless Council consists of multiple government, non-profit, and community leaders who work together to find solutions for the increasing number of homeless and at-risk populations in Northern Utah. They advocate for homeless services as well as affordable housing solutions. Other organizations in Cache County provide funding for temporary emergency housing in hotels and the needs are increasing. A recent homeless count identified more than 200 homeless people in Cache County.

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