



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

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February 8, 2019

The Honorable Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair  
Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Follow-up to funding question

Dear Co-Chairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to present and to discuss our agency's programs with the subcommittee on February 4, 2019.

During the hearing, a committee member asked a question related to what a "wish-list" for funding would look like for our agency's programs. As I understood the question, it was intended to understand what funding would be needed for our agency's three programs to most effectively operate and serve vulnerable Oregonians in the next biennium if monies were not limited.

Given this question posed during the hearing, I believe the following addresses the question and demonstrates what a wish-list of needs would be for our programs to best serve Oregonians.

### Governor's Budget recommended packages.

(These are still the agency's highest priorities.)

Package	Funding (next biennium)	Comments
1.0 FTE Deputy Long Term Care Ombudsman	\$202,049	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each Deputy staff supports another 35 volunteers, totaling about 4,550 residents receiving direct, regular Ombudsman services.</li><li>• LTCO could achieve about 80% facility coverage.</li></ul>
0.5 FTE Volunteer Recruiter	\$58,858	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Would increase an 0.5 FTE to 1.0 FTE for agency-wide volunteer recruitment.</li></ul>
Re-commit funds to volunteer supports	\$92,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agency funding cuts combined with IT cost increases have diverted existing funds from</li></ul>

		volunteer supports (i.e., training and travel reimbursements, especially in rural Oregon).
Personal services adjustment	\$111,855	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needed to match salary levels for the two hired Deputy Public Guardians from Feb. 2018 allotment.</li> <li>• The new staff both came highly experienced and qualified, resulting in higher salaries than what was allotted.</li> </ul>

**Packages included in the Agency Request Budget (not included in the Governor's Budget)**  
(Prioritized in order here to reflect our latest thinking)

Package	Funding (next biennium)	Comments
1.0 FTE Deputy Public Guardian +	\$202,049 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This request was submitted in summer 2018. <b>The agency now knows that 4 Deputy Guardians + the Admin support is needed to match current rate of need for public guardianship services to highly at-risk vulnerable Oregonians.</b></li> </ul>
1.0 FTE Administrative support	\$135,336	
2.0 FTE Deputy Residential Facilities Ombudsman	\$404,098	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the intensive nature of providing Ombudsman services to the populations served by RFO, it is believed to be much more difficult to achieve facility coverage solely through volunteers as is done in the LTCO program.</li> <li>• These additional RFO Deputies would allow for appropriate regionalization of the state for the most effective services to the I/DD and mental health populations, while better supporting the expected more intense volunteering.</li> </ul>

1.0 FTE Deputy Long Term Care Ombudsman	\$202,049	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This additional Deputy would allow the LTCO program to achieve another 35 volunteers and near 100% facility coverage.</li> </ul>
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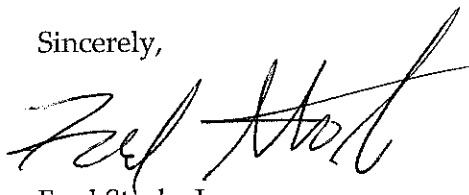
**Additional agency suggestions beyond what was submitted in the Agency Request Budget**

Package	Funding (next biennium)	Comments
3.0 FTE Deputy Public Guardians	\$606,147	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As identified in the comments of the table above, this reflects the current thinking that 4 Deputy Public Guardians are needed to match expected need in the next biennium.</li> </ul>
2.0 FTE Deputy Public Guardians	\$202,049	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Proposed to begin July 2020</b> to address the expected ongoing need over the next biennium.</li> </ul>
1.0 FTE Case Manager for the public guardian program	\$76,242	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a lower-cost position proposed to provide services that do not need a guardian to provide. This approach would increase the case-load capacity by 3-5 for each Deputy Guardian.</li> <li><b>Proposed to begin July 2020.</b></li> </ul>

Of course it is recognized that the above lists, beyond the Governor's recommendations, are not "asks" by the agency at this time. This extensive list is only intended to be responsive to the legislative question posed during the hearing.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present on the status of our agency, its programs, and our future service to vulnerable Oregonians.

Sincerely,



Fred Steele, Jr.

Agency Director & State Long Term Care Ombudsman