



February 5, 2019

Co-Chairs Winters and Piluso and committee members,

Board of Directors

Steve Christiansen, *Chair*
Steve Hecker, *Vice Chair*
Jason Pellegrini, *Treasurer*
Zoe York, *Secretary*
Brian Cox
Chris Elliott
Margaret Hallock
Tricia Hedin
Trina Kanewa
Sen. James Manning
Kevin Moore
Guadalupe Quinn
Hon. Ilisa Rooke-Ley
Peter Shannon
Darren Stone
Richie Weinman

Staff

Paul Solomon
Executive Director
Nick Crapser
Deputy Director
Laura Johnson
Director of Program Development

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the Executive Director at Sponsors, Inc, based in Eugene. I am also the Chair of Lane County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC); and serve on the Governor's Reentry Council in addition to many other boards related to public safety.

I am here today to ask for your support to fully fund the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program (JRGP) at the current service level of \$49.5 million. Anything less will result in cuts to programs in our county that are having a profound impact on prison utilization and recidivism.

Sponsors, Inc., is a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services. We operate 20 buildings on seven sites in Lane County with over 200 units of housing for men and women with criminal histories and ancillary programs. In the 2017/19 biennium JRGP funding provided critical support for the construction of the Oaks at 14th, a 54-unit apartment complex. This permanent supportive housing (PSH) project targets moderate to high risk, homeless men and women releasing from state custody. A recent CJC analysis of Sponsors long-term housing showed a remarkable 60% recidivism reduction compared to the counties baseline for recidivism.

Additionally, during the 17/19 biennium Sponsors provided over 800 men and women with housing services; more than 1,000 men and women received Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and over 1,500 individuals accessed crisis funding to pay for Oregon ID and bus passes. Without the JRGP funding it doesn't take a policy analyst to tell you that we would have a lot of homeless, high risk individuals releasing to our community with predictable outcomes. As a result of the investments made by Lane County using JRGP funding, we have witnessed a significant reduction in the county's utilization of state prison beds and have continued to make progress in our efforts to reduce recidivism. Furthermore, A recent analysis of our STTL releases between December 2013 and December of 2018 indicated that over 48,000 prison days were avoided, and Lane County compared to the Metro Region Counties had the lowest rate of failures with a new crime at 1.2%. Prior to the passage of HB 3194 Lane County had very high rates of prison utilization and lengths of stay. With the local investments made possible through the JRGP, we have reversed those trends and made critical investments in programs that are holding people accountable without the use of prison, reducing recidivism, and improving the quality of life in our community. The resulting cost avoidance more than warrants fully funding JRGP.

Sincerely,

Paul Solomon, Executive Director

Services for People with Criminal Histories Since 1973

Phone: (541) 485-8341 Address: 338 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402 Fax: (541) 683-6196

Tax ID# 93-0639815