
February 13, 2023

Senator Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street, NE. Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the Committee,

Multnomah County supports continued funding of the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program. Restorative justice programs have operated in Oregon for more than a decade and are practiced in many counties including Clackamas, Deschutes, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Multnomah, Polk, Wasco, and Washington. Additionally, there are several tribes with peacemaking courts that incorporate similar practices.

In 2021, the legislature took an important step by investing in restorative justice and its use as an alternative to prosecution. Not only has this grant program helped to establish and expand eight programs across the state, it has been an important pathway to providing more healing options for crime survivors while reducing the state's reliance on incarceration and improving public safety.

The Restorative Justice Grant program is a critical piece to transforming justice in Oregon while centering survivors, meaningfully supporting all impacted by crime and increasing public safety. Restorative justice is proven to:

- Support survivor healing and trauma recovery while reducing symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- Increase survivor satisfaction with the justice process
- Cost less than prosecution, probation and incarceration
- Promote offender accountability
- Reduce recidivism rates

Funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program would demonstrate to Oregonians that the legislature is committed to being responsive to our communities cries for justice, equity, and public safety.

We strongly urge the legislature to continue funding the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program.

Sincerely,

Rhea DuMont
Multnomah County
Department of Community Justice
Victim and Survivor Services
Community Justice Manager

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