

Date: March 2, 2023
To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
From: Michael Foley – Caretaker – PPW
RE: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Managers!

Co-Chair Campos, Co-Chair Valderrama, and Members of the Committee,

My name is (INSERT NAME) and I represent (INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME IF APPLICABLE).

Oregonians thrive when we have a roof over our heads, a job that we love, and are supported by people that help us live our best life. For those with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD), a case manager can often be the link to finding all of these important things.

Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs) provide case management services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) in all 36 counties of Oregon. Some of the programs are run by county human service departments, and others are independent nonprofits that directly contract with the state or their local county to provide these services.

The CDDP appropriation is built into the ODHS budget. Over the course of the past few biennia, the Legislature has made meaningful strides towards fully funding this budget, allowing us to provide more effective services to those in need. But, we have not reached full funding for our budget in several years. This has resulted in high turnover and caseloads in our profession, which is not beneficial for the person receiving services or the local CDDP.

The support, direction and inspiration we get from our Case Workers and from the department is a lifeline, an absolute foundation we can rely upon that makes the very difficult job, task, and responsibility we have to take care of those who cannot take care of them possible. Without these lifelines many of us would be lost, overwhelmed and the quality of care we could give would be greatly diminished along with our own well-being of caretaking with limited or no support. Oregon should be proud of the supportive program that is being built for those in need. It reflects our priorities and values as Oregonians. Investing in people is always the best choice and has the most impact, especially on those who need it. Build the program, make it the best in the country and take pride that your decisions and leadership have a direct hand in making thousands of lives better by supporting and funding these programs. Don't leave the disabled behind. They need us the caretakers, they need the CDDP's and now they need you.

In their Agency Request Budget (ARB), ODHS included a Policy Option Package to fully fund these programs, recognizing the important role that CDDPs play in local communities. While this POP was not included in the Governor's Budget, full funding for these programs remains critical. Full funding will allow us to better serve those with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD).

We urge you to fully fund this budget!
Sincerely,
Michael Foley