

Date: March 2, 2023
To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
From: Erin Storlie
RE: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Managers!

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

My name is Erin Storlie and I represent my family, including my son Aksel Storlie.

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.

Our Case Manager Thuy Le has been consistently meeting with us for over 7 years, and provides guidance and resources that are available for our non-typical developing teen. Without the help from Thuy, we would not be able to help Aksel succeed and thrive while learning how to navigate his intellectual disability. We are confident that the next critical years for Aksel will be thoughtfully supported by Multnomah County to find him job training and a meaningful life after high school. When our youth can find their special place in life we all succeed, with fewer pressures on critical response resources.

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,

ERIN STORLIE

