

CDDP Budget
2023 Legislative Session



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH PROGRAMS

Date: March 2, 2023
To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services
From: Cathy Friesen, Columbia County CDDP
RE: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Managers!

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

My name is Cathy Friesen and I represent Columbia County I/DD (CCMH)

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.

I have worked at Columbia County I/DD Office for nine and a half years as part of the Admin staff. Since I have been here, our staff, including Case Managers (we call them Service Coordinators) and Admin, has grown from nine staff members to twenty! The number of clients we serve has grown significantly and that trend is continuing at a crazy rate. We can't keep up! Our office prides itself with how we serve our I/DD community. BUT, to be honest, we could do so much more! Caseloads are high and all of us are definitely feeling the strain. How much longer can we keep up at this pace without being able to give our 100% or worse, burning out altogether? Fully funding this budget would help tremendously in serving our I/DD community with more staff state-wide with what they deserve. Would you agree?

Thank you for your consideration!

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,