

Testimony - CDDP Budget 2023 Legislative Session



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH PROGRAMS

Date: April 8, 2023

To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Austin J. Robinson, Clackamas County Community Developmental Disabilities Program

Regarding: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Managers

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

Oregonians thrive when we have a roof over our heads, a job that we love, and support from people who help us live our best lives. For those with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability (I/DD), a Case Manager is the link to finding all of these basic life necessities.

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. However, we have not reached full funding for our budget in several years, which has resulted in high turnover and caseloads in our profession. Bottom line: staff uncertainty is not beneficial for the people we serve.

As someone in a position of hiring, I often see how this turnover affects our staff and clients, and I receive the complaints from the community regarding the downfalls in our services due to partial funding. Just as basic life necessities are important for our Oregonians who experience DD, they are just as important for our staff – who often care for a family member(s) who experience DD, as most of our staff are attracted to the field through personal experience with the population. When we don't pay our staff properly, we have high turnover, or even worse: Case Managers who are making ends meet while desperately trying to cover the caseloads of the staff who took another job that pays higher – which is unbelievably common. Not fully funding this budget continues to harm the entirety of the Oregonians who serve, and the Oregonians who are served by DD Services.

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).

I urge you, with great importance, to fully fund this budget. I am willing to provide any additional information at any time.

Sincerely,

Austin Robinson

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