

Date: April 8, 2023

To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Cortina Robinson | Case Manager II

RE: Support Full Funding for I/DD Case Managers!

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

My name is Cortina Robinson and I am writing on behalf of myself as a Case Manager, as well as the families and clients I work for and with, that receive services to provide support for their Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

Oregonians thrive when we have a roof over our heads, a job that we love, and are supported by people who 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 in the I/DD field as a job coach, assessor, and case manager/service coordinator, and I am parent of an adult child who just turned 18 and receives services, and have seen the direct impact that services can provide. In my most recent role I have also seen the impact that having enough funding can provide through the additional resources that have been available through the PHE and ARPA budgets. I have experienced the workload of having almost 60 clients versus 50 clients and the difference in the quality of service I can provide, as well as my own quality of work and personal life balanced or not as a result, along with increased or decreased stress levels. I have had the honor and privilege of working with the families I serve, and to watch the amazing transformations that take place when the right amount of support is available and provided. Every time we prioritize the health and well-being of the individuals in our communities, we see communities thrive, and I have seen profound changes in our communities in the years that funding was allocated to those most in need during the PHE. I have also directly experienced when there were not enough resources and caseloads too large to provide adequate services, and my child/our family suffered the consequences of this. I hope that this will be taken into consideration as you decide if our communities of those experiencing I/DD are worth a fully funded budget.

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,

Cortina Robinson



