

Policy Option Package 114

Hourly Attorney Rate Parity with Federal Rate



This request has three components:

1. to increase hourly attorney pay from \$75 to match the federal rate of \$164 per hour;
2. to increase the investigator rate from \$40 per hour to \$75 per hour to be competitive with the federal rate; and
3. to request an additional accountant (accountant 4) to enable the agency to maintain and handle the increased accounting workload as the agency continues to grow at its current pace.

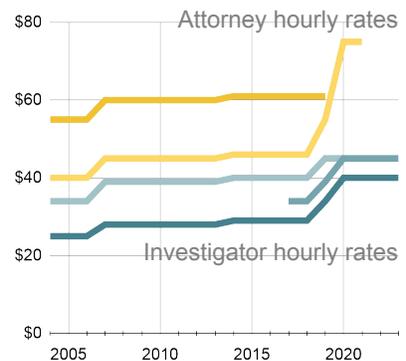
We encourage you to support Policy Option Package 114.

Oregon's public defense crisis includes a number of unrepresented individuals, many of whom are unhoused, and some who are veterans. The criminal justice system is often the first place that unhoused people can receive services, those services in turn can help reverse the housing crisis in the state. Investigators not only locate defendants for attorneys, we also build relationships with them which in turn helps them receive necessary services and a just resolution to their cases. When clients are deemed unable to aid and assist in their cases, investigators work with the defendants and their family members to help the case move toward resolution, frequently visiting the clients while they are in jail waiting for a space in the Oregon State Hospital, while they are in the Oregon State Hospital, and later on, if and when they are found able to aid and assist.

Investigators are leaving public defense work primarily for financial reasons. Relatively high overhead combined with a historically low rate of pay makes retaining and attracting investigators almost impossible. Even new investigators who may start in public defense quickly depart for more lucrative work in the federal courts (which are also experiencing difficulty retaining investigators) and in retained investigation work.

Please support Policy Option Package 114, this will greatly benefit the people of the great State of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Oregon Public Defense Investigator

**AVG
OVERHEAD
46%**

**AVG TAKE-
HOME PAY
54%**



More information about
the public value of
defense investigators

