

OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Behavioral Health Housing Supports– POP 90



Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Transportation and Economic Development | **April 8, 2025**

Background

- Part of response to the Mink-Bowman litigation
- Oregon is currently out of compliance with the 7-day timeline of transitioning individuals from jail and into Oregon State Hospital
 - These are individuals deemed unable to aid and assist in their own defense
- Third-party neutral expert recommended a flexible housing fund to help individuals exiting the State Hospital access housing
- POP 90 is one tool to create more capacity at the State Hospital

Executive Branch Collaboration

- OHCS, Oregon Health Authority, and the Governor's office are continuing to work on details for these funds
- Current plan is:
 - Create a Flexible Behavioral Health Housing Fund to support individuals with a behavioral health condition – creating a bridge from the State Hospital, to licensed Behavioral Health facilities, to permanent housing tenancy
 - Funds are for short-term, time-limited interventions that support referrals and access to other resources if needed

Primary Goals of Funds

- To move people out of the Oregon State Hospital and residential treatment to other, more independent housing options creating **capacity** for these facilities to accept new placements
- To create tangible, specific, and actionable integration strategies between the Housing and Behavioral Health teams at the state and service provider/community level

System Coordination

Funding would require shared case management between systems to support overall stability for clients



Flexible Behavioral Health Housing Fund Uses and Outcomes

- Funding Uses:

- Rental assistance
- Application fees
- Moving costs
- Storage fees
- Repair and maintenance fees
- Eviction avoidance
- Utilities

- Estimated Outcomes:

- 96 Households moved from licensed facility to permanent housing
 - Oregon Rehousing Initiative is basis which:
 - Relies on Progressive Client Engagement (flexibility in number of months and types of services)
 - Averages \$3,000/household/month for 12 months
- 75% of clients placed into housing maintained engagement with their Aid and Assist Community Restoration provider

Next Steps on Implementation

- Engagement with Community Mental Health Providers and Housing Providers to understand viability and what's needed to operationalize
- Validate plan with court appointed third-party expert
- Move toward contracts with providers in first quarter of Fiscal Year 2026

Questions?