



March 10, 2025

TO: Chair Kropf and members of the House Committee On Judiciary

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt

RE: Time limits for aid and assist community restoration

Dear Chair Kropf and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, although we do not have a position on HB 3051-3, we are grateful for the conversation around time limits for aid and assist community restoration orders.

Counties are the local mental health authority responsible for the community mental health program required by statute to provide court-ordered aid and assist community restoration services, civil commitment investigation and services, and mobile crisis response, among others.

In the midst of Oregon's housing and addictions crises, demand for these mandated county services has soared while the funding for them has remained flat or declined due to inflation. The biennial funding gap predicated on fall 2024 caseloads has been calculated by a state-funded actuarial cost study at \$64.8 million. The shortage of needed housing and residential treatment also undermines the effectiveness of community restoration services.

At the same time, since the 2022 federal court order instituting aid and assist restoration time limits at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH), individuals not restored to competency are released from OSH to indefinite terms of community restoration.

These individuals are not compelled to participate in community restoration services and those who do not engage often cannot be located for outreach by service providers.

The lack of time limits for community restoration creates unchecked cost and liability to counties and our local providers.

In particular, a [2024 DAS report found](#) this has led to an inability of counties and providers to find affordable, if any, insurance coverage, putting county governments and current and developing service capacity at potentially catastrophic risk. One of the report recommendations to mitigate the risk and increase insurability is to establish jurisdictional length for Aid and Assist community restoration services.

Thank you for partnering with AOC and counties to safeguard county governments and the local behavioral health safety net to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties