



March 13, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Relating to behavioral health aid and assist gap funding**

Clackamas County supports HB 2056. Every person accused of a crime yet is unable to aid in their defense due to a mental illness deserves access to the full range of restoration services.

Clackamas County is committed to ensuring that individuals in this situation receive the care and support they need. As the Community Mental Health Program (CMHP), we provide aid and assist, civil commitment, and crisis services to people who meet the legal criteria. These services include care coordination, housing, legal skills training, and peer support. They are designed to empower individuals and ensure they can navigate the legal system effectively, despite the barriers posed by mental illness.

However, there is a significant gap in our system. The Oregon Health Authority has identified a critical funding shortfall between available funds and the services needed to support adequate community mental health programs. At the same time, caseloads continue to grow, costs to provide these essential services are rising and statewide workforce shortages remain. HB 2056 allocates \$64,800,000 to community mental health programs to provide these services, ensuring individuals receive the support they need when they need it most.

We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2056.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.