

March 31, 2025

Senator Anthony Broadman, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 5005 Relating to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission biennial funding

Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the Committee,

I'd like to thank the Committee for your dedication to supporting public safety in Oregon. Programs supported by the State, particularly through the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), allow Multnomah County to support rehabilitation for justice involved individuals that fulfill the Department of Community Justice's vision, *Community Safety through Positive Change*.

Multnomah County supports HB 5005 relating to the financial administration for the Criminal Justice Commission, specifically in support of funding for specialty courts, justice reinvestment programs, restorative practices and the Juvenile Justice Policy Commission (JJPC). Oregon's CJC not only provides crucial funding support, but is also a key partner for Multnomah County in tracking data and providing program standards to help shape our services. Multnomah County receives over \$9 million from CJC in formula and competitive grants.

Multnomah County is able to implement structured programs with support from CJC funding that contribute to keeping justice-involved individuals (JIIs) from moving further into the justice program, and reducing recidivism including:

- **Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program (MCJRP):** This initiative decreases Multnomah County's utilization of imprisonment in Department of Corrections (DOC) institutions while protecting public safety, holding individuals accountable, and helping to change their behavior. For the 2023-2025 biennium, MCJRP secured the Formula and Supplemental Grants through the CJC. This funding covers full or partial positions to include a Deputy District Attorney, Research Analyst, Case Managers/Social Workers at Metropolitan Public Defender and Multnomah Defenders Inc, Court Coordinator, DCJ Probation Officers and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Deputy.
- **Specialty Court Programs:** Specialty Courts are designed to assist JIIs receive alternative sentence structures and treatment in lieu of incarceration. This model connects Probation Officers, the District Attorney's office, the courts (OJD), and community based organizations providing treatment and/or housing. Multnomah County participates and operates four Specialty Courts: DISP Court (DUII Intensive Supervision Program), MH Court (Mental Health), START Court (Success Through Accountability, Restitution, and Treatment), STEP Court (Strategic Treatment & Engagement Program).

- **Victim and Survivors Services:** Multnomah County is committed to upholding the rights of victims and survivors and supporting their safety. 10% of CJC Justice Reinvestment funds are for community based victim advocacy. CJC formula and competitive grants support advocates that thoughtfully support people who have experienced harm, providing comprehensive services to victims, such as accessing safe emergency shelter, crisis counseling, court and medical accompaniment, safety planning, obtaining protective orders, and applying for benefits.

Additionally, through the CJC, the Juvenile Justice Policy Commission (JJPC), created in 2023, serves a vital role in strengthening public safety and improving youth outcomes in the juvenile justice system. Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice Juvenile Services Division Director, Kyla Armstrong-Romero, serves as the Chair. The JJPC's role is to analyze the state and local juvenile justice systems to provide recommendations for improvements in law, policy, practice, and appropriation to improve public safety, youth outcomes, and system disparities.

The bi-ennial budget presented in the CJC program supports stability and consistency in the programs and services we are able to provide, ensuring that justice-involved individuals are connected to the services to support rehabilitation with certainty.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB5005. We believe that fully funding the Criminal Justice Commission supports Counties in making communities more safe, contributing to vibrant communities that support investment and innovation in Oregon. We respectfully request your support for HB5005.

Sincerely,

Denise Peña
Director
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice