

April 2, 2025

Senator Campos, Co-Chair
Rep. Valderrama, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 5526 - Community Development Disabilities Programs

My name is Alexis Alberti, and I am the Division Director for the Multnomah County Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division (IDDDSD). Thank you for the opportunity to add testimony in support of the ODHS Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDPS) portion of the state's proposed budget.

One of the primary responsibilities of my organization is to provide case management services to individuals who experience an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD). Approximately 20% of all eligible individuals in the state are served by Multnomah County. In Multnomah County, case management has become increasingly complex due to a rising prevalence of individuals with co-occurring diagnoses, elevated rates of homelessness, and escalating substance abuse disorders. Case managers for individuals experiencing I/DD are a lifeline, connecting these individuals to vital services including, but not limited to, housing, caregivers, and transportation. Research shows that case management can improve housing stability, promote social inclusion, and self-determination for clients who access our program services.

Our programs are funded through the Oregon Department of Human Services. During the past few years, our funding level has remained flat, at roughly 86% of what would be considered a full funding level. Unfortunately this factor has led to increased caseload sizes for our case managers, providing direct services to our enrolled community members and longer wait times for clients to access needed evaluations and support services. When case management entities (CMEs) are fully funded, these programs are able to accomplish the following essential functions:

- Connect enrolled individuals with necessary, life changing, interventions
- Turnover is reduced, creating greater workload balance for our staff members
- Our staff experiences an increased bandwidth to be responsive, listen to our

community members' needs, and improve customer relationships and services overall.

We are partnering with other agencies, providing case management to the I/DD community this session, to restore these programs to 100% of full funding. Such investment would draw down a significant federal match and can help address many of the staffing issues that our programs are experiencing across Oregon. We urge you to support this request.

Sincerely,

Alexis Alberti, Division Director
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division (IDDSD)
Multnomah County Department of County Human Services