

Resources Needed for Successful Community Restoration

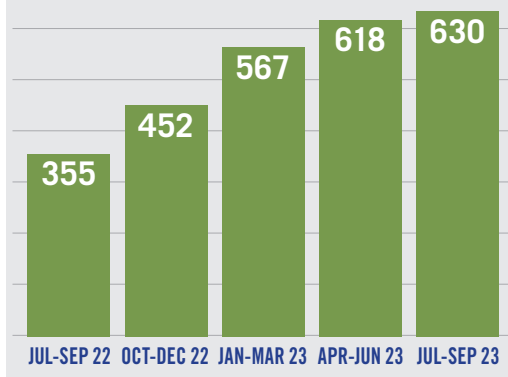


All individuals who have been accused of a crime, but who are not well enough to aid and assist in their own defense, deserve access to the full range of restoration services in their local community. Statewide, Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) provide essential behavioral health services on behalf of the State of Oregon, including community restoration. These are services that are required by law to be provided to individuals who have been found to be unable to “aid and assist” in their own defense due to mental illness or a substance use disorder. These include things like: care coordination, housing if available, legal skills training, monitoring and direct client assistance. Many of these services are not reimbursable by Medicaid and must be covered by general funds.

CMHPs currently receive \$22M biennially from the state to provide these required services. Unfortunately, due to increasing caseloads, this funding does not meet the need. **An additional \$7.5M/year is needed to cover the gap between the state’s current investment and the cost of providing services to all individuals in need of community restoration statewide.**

Federal Rulings, Soaring Caseloads

Statewide Numbers of People in Community Restoration:
July 2022 - September 2023



Historically, individuals were sent exclusively to the Oregon State Hospital for restoration services, removing them from their communities and requiring them to live in an institutional setting. Due to the expense of this often unnecessary hospital level of

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Contact: **Laura Curtis** | laura@nwpublicaffairs.com | 541-280-9984



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care, the state developed a pathway for individuals to receive restoration services in their local communities, provided by CMHPs since 2019.

In the last year, caseloads have skyrocketed in large part due to a federal court order (from Judge Michael Mosman) that limits the amount of time people can stay at OSH according to their criminal charge and an increase in the number of people entering the Justice system. When individuals reach the Mosman time limit or do not meet the criteria for hospital level of

care, they are released from the hospital and sent back to their local community. The majority of these individuals are still in need of services and the responsibility to provide those services then shifts from the state to CMHPs. This change in policy has caused community restoration caseloads to double and even triple in some communities while funding has remained stagnant. **It is critical to the wellbeing of these individuals and our communities that CMHPs are adequately resourced to provide these services.**

Please allocate an additional \$7.5M annually to Community Mental Health Programs to provide statutorily required community restoration services to individuals in need.

Needed Support in a Critical Moment

In 2024, Community Mental Health Programs, local government, advocates, and partners in the criminal justice system are asking the legislature to prioritize support for community restoration at a critical moment for our behavioral health and public safety systems

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