



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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February 14, 2024

The Honorable Suzanne Weber
900 Court St. NE, S-405
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Cyrus Javadi
900 Court St. NE, H-373
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Weber and Representative Javadi,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners urge your support for critical funding needed for community corrections across the state, including in Clatsop County. **We ask that you please advocate for \$16 million to be allocated to community corrections during the 2024 Legislative Session.**

The Department of Corrections (DOC) 2023-2025 budget for Grant-In-Aid, which funds county community corrections, saw a \$32 million decrease from the previous biennium due to the combined impacts of Measure 110 and workforce challenges in county prosecution offices and public defense agencies. This has resulted in **lost programming, staff, contracts, and vital resources in communities statewide.**

Locally, this funding provides a system of diverse, life-impacting programs and case management strategies aimed at achieving successful outcomes and promoting an equitable system. For Clatsop County, community corrections serve individuals with mental health conditions, substance use disorders, the houseless population, as well as other high-risk / high need populations in our community. This includes individuals convicted of domestic violence and sexual offenses, prison deferred individuals, and individuals at high risk of mental health crisis and overdose.

Additionally, intensive supervision strategies are instrumental in combatting the current fentanyl crisis. Community corrections utilizes validated risk assessment tools and brokers evidence-based interventions and services through intensive supervision of specialty caseloads. As an example, these programs include gender responsive, culturally responsive, and downward departure.

Furthermore, community corrections utilize the specialty court rehabilitation model to directly impact those with significant mental illness, severely addicted individuals, and justice-involved veterans.

In short, **community corrections play a critical role in our local community to support those who need it most.** Community corrections uses evidence-based decision making to make real life changing impacts on the population it serves.

We need your help to ensure the needed \$16 million is allocated to community corrections during the 2024 Legislative Session. **Please advocate with legislative leadership and Ways and Means Committee members for this critical funding to be included in a funding bill.**

Thank you for your service and continued support for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Kujala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Kujala" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Kujala, Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners