

2020 Short Session – Priorities and Strategies

Asks:

Make Key investments in Oregon’s Families:

1. Increased access to safety net services - domestic violence, alcohol and drug treatment programs, in-home supports, mental health, housing, self-sufficiency and anti-poverty are all critical elements.
2. One-time investment in Oregon’s system supporting families - financial support for those organizations who are self-insured for unemployment; funding for COVID related expenses; and access to funding to ensure system capacity.

Invest in Homeless, Runaway and Unaccompanied Youth:

1. Expand existing shelter and outreach capacity.
2. Preserve / expand on-site mental health, substance use prevention treatment.

Keep Youth, Families and Staff Safe:

1. Access to COVID-19 testing kits and PPE.
2. Workforce recruitment, development and retention—support staff training

Resources for Intensive Community Based Services:

1. Preserve funding for this level of care, improves the lives of children and youth by providing intensive behavioral intervention, residential, counseling, and skills-training services
2. Reflect Oregon Wage Index (OWI) in the BRS/Non-BRS rate

Talking Points

General:

- We ask you (legislators) to think differently, budget “cuts” typically impact vulnerable populations and communities of color disproportionately, the exact populations hit hardest by Covid-19.
- In this crisis, we should learn from our past mistakes and instead invest reserves early to prevent additional/higher costs. Reflecting on lessons learned, we know that cuts to essential programs often result in cost shifting and negative outcomes.
- Invest in Innovation: Now more than ever, we need investments of rainy day/reserve funds to ensure outcomes for youth and families. Efficiencies are important, but this is a critical time with lasting impacts.
- When the economy collapses, the safety net is stretched to the max and underinvestment causes the net to rip and many people to fall through and increase overall costs.
- We need healthy adults to raise healthy children and youth.

- Canada's national statistical agency, in a release [last month](#), noted that a fifth of Canadians aged 15-49 had increased their alcohol consumption since the start of the crisis.¹
- Non-Profit organizations/health care providers are an integral part of the social safety net, providing care to diverse communities.
- Organizations are struggling to find financial support for PPE and additional staffing costs.
- Prioritize PPE/supplies for all non-profits and safety net providers serving vulnerable populations. This is an investment in the workforce.
- 36% A little over one third of children born in Oregon to a parent dealing with mental health issues are over 80 times more likely to experience maltreatment and enter foster care relative to children with no predictive factors.²

DV, Anxiety, Stress, SUD, Suicide:

- More than 1/3 of Americans have displayed clinical signs of anxiety, depression, or both since the coronavirus pandemic began.³
- 53% More than half of children born to a mother dealing with substance abuse issues in Oregon are over 80 times more likely to experience maltreatment and enter foster care relative to children with no predictive factors.⁴
- The long-term psychological consequences of collective traumas can last a decade or more.⁵
- Research shows children and adolescents are experiencing mental distress due to the disruptions of the closure of schools, activities, and maintaining social and physical distancing.⁶
- Emotional difficulties among children and adolescents are exacerbated by family stress, social isolation, with some facing increased abuse, disrupted education and uncertainty about their futures, occurring at critical points in their emotional development.
- Across the country, calls to suicide hotlines have increased by 600%⁷.
- Loss of employment and financial stressors are well-recognized risk factors for suicide.
- Oregon law enforcement officials such as the Bend Police Department, which from March 3 to April 19 received a 20% increase in domestic violence calls over the same period last year.⁸ Other Oregon jurisdictions are reporting the same increase.

¹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2020029-eng.htm>

² <http://oregonp4p.org/our-research/>

³ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nazbeheshti/2020/05/28/10-eye-opening-statistics-on-the-mental-health-impact-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic/#3e3003442df0>

⁴ <http://oregonp4p.org/our-research/>

⁵ <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2017/10/12/katrina-brain-the-invisible-long-term-toll-of-megastorms>

⁶ <https://www.psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/hope-resilience/202005/covid-19-mental-health-effects-children-and-adolescents>

⁷ <https://forbes.com/sites/gracemarieturner/2020/05/22/600-physicians-say-lockdowns-are-a-mass-casualty-incident/>

⁸ https://www.bendbulletin.com/coronavirus/domestic-violence-calls-rise-in-bend-during-quarantine/article_237f6f16-88d6-11ea-b067-f39483cd3750.html

- Frontline healthcare workers and first responders have been exposed to numerous stressors and ensuring the mental health of healthcare workers is a critical factor in sustaining COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery.

Unaccompanied Houseless Youth

- Services have surged during Covid due to domestic violence, substance use and family stresses.
- Houseless Youth: As many as 3 out of every 4 of these youth live with a chronic medical condition and their high level of mobility places these youth at an elevated risk for both contracting and spreading COVID-19.⁹
- Unaccompanied Houseless Youth (UHY) go on to lifetimes of houselessness, becoming many of the 50% of chronically houseless American adults who first experience houselessness as youth.¹⁰ By averting the costs of lifelong houselessness, Oregon's investments in UHY services generate a 400% return on investment, according to research done by Pacific University and Portland State University.
- Lifetime cost of 1 homeless adult is \$3M.¹¹
- Communities across the state have established temporary shelters for houseless Oregonians. However, these local emergency shelters primarily serve adults, leaving UHY without options for social distancing in a stable environment or for accessing hygiene products.
- We must ensure that UHY are able to access safe, stable housing and hygiene immediately in order to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus among UHY and other Oregonians.
- 1 in 6 youth experience homelessness after emancipation from the Foster Care system.
- 20 – 40% of homeless Youth (Under 24) identify as LGBTQ+.
- Without substantial investment in rent assistance, Oregon will witness trends similar to those seen in past downturns such as 2008 Recession, when the number of houseless students rose 50% in the U.S. and 32% in Oregon.¹²
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⁹ Kulik, D. M., Gaetz, S., Crowe, C., Ford-Jones, E. (2011). Homeless youth's overwhelming health burden: A review of the literature. *Pediatrics & child health*, 16(6), e43-e47. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3328221/>.

¹⁰ <http://lapublichealth.org/cms/docs%5CWorkingTogetherHomeless.pdf>

¹¹ Pacific University, Portland State University. (2009). Stronger Youth and Smarter Communities.

https://live.pacific.us.ubiquityrepository.website/fail_uploads/download_file?fileset_id=1ab1a22b-582d-41f1-8121-05b3e5cccdfd/.

¹² Lovell, P., Duffield, B. (2010). Creating jobs and supporting homeless students. First Focus Campaign for Children.

<https://campaignforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2010/01/CreatingJobs.pdf>. Oregon data calculated from 2006-07 school year data at <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED579156.pdf> and 2010-11 SY data at <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/schools-and-districts/grants/ESEA/McKinney-Vento/Documents/homelessstudentsoregon-14-15.pdf>.

Cost Savings

Intervention	2018 Estimated Cost	Duration
Supportive Housing VS.	\$59 to \$64	Per night
Emergency Room Visit OR	Average cost is between \$1,200 to \$2,264	Per visit
Multnomah County Jail	\$210	Per night
Emergency Diversion Program VS.	\$460 per day	
Inpatient stay at Oregon State Hospital	\$888	Per night
CW Residential VS.	\$184 to \$314 depending on level of service	Per night, includes staffing costs
Hotel stay with CW staff	\$2,000+	Per night with 2 DHS staffing costs

Costs 39% to 58% more to send a child out-of-state, this doesn't include cost of DHS staff and travel expenses.