



Addressing Oregon's Behavioral Health Challenges:

Worst Ranked State in youth mental health.

First in the nation for prevalence of mental illness.

Employees with inadequate mental health miss four times more work.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COLLABORATION

Building Oregon's Behavioral Health Workforce SB1592

Oregon's behavioral health problems cannot be addressed without more licensed professionals creating a safe and secure environment for patients. The public universities are increasing collaboration to help meet community needs. **SB1592** provides **\$6M** to meet patient needs by providing **\$1M each to EOU, OT, SOU, and WOU** and **\$2M to PSU** to increase the capacity of licensed mental and behavioral health workers by:

- **Awarding stipends, fellowships, scholarships or any other type of tuition assistance to students.** Helping create debt-free pathways to those seeking to become behavioral health professionals;
- **Providing behavioral and mental health services to individuals from underserved communities, including individuals who are veterans, homeless or living in rural environments.** Helping place professionals in community and public agencies poised to serve those populations;
- **Partnering with community organizations to develop career pathways.** Seeking to programmatically align university programs with specific community needs; and
- **Developing education and training programs.** Increasing the capacity of existing programs and developing new academic degree pathways, including social work and counseling degrees, micro-credentials, alcohol and drug counseling certificates, and other innovations that materially increase the number of behavioral health professionals.

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Chief Co-Sponsors Senator Golden, Representatives Nosse, Sosa, Grayber, Pham H

SB1592 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COLLABORATION

*"To expand the capacity of behavioral health services in Oregon, **it is essential to prioritize workforce investments**. Most of the current facilities are understaffed, and building more facilities could exacerbate the workforce challenges faced by existing facilities. Additionally, there is a need for culturally specific providers to offer culturally appropriate care for the diverse and indigenous populations in Oregon. **There should be a continued focus on building a diverse, well-trained, and skilled workforce that can meet the needs of the communities across Oregon, both in rural and urban settings.** Workforce development should be prioritized so that every facility can operate effectively and efficiently with the appropriate level of staff to serve Oregonians who are seeking behavioral health services."*

- Oregon Health Authority, Behavioral Health Residential+ Facility Study January 2024 Draft Report

The \$6M Investment Will Be Used to Meet Regional Community Needs

	Funding	Student Support	Community Collaboration	Culturally Specific Training	Funding
	\$1M	Scholarships	Greater Oregon Behavioral Health	Yes	Support for Master's in Clinical Mental Health (launched 2023) and Master's of Social Work (enrolling Winter 2024-25)
	\$1M	Tuition assistance	Rural and underserved communities	Yes	Increase student enrollment/retention in Marriage and Family Therapy programs and license clinicians to serve underserved communities.
	\$2M	Scholarships and stipends	Statewide Internship sites and BIPOC Providers	Yes	Increase mental health and addictions treatment graduates who become Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CADC), and increase BSW and MSW graduates.
	\$1M	Scholarships	Priority public health placements	Yes	Initial funding for a joint MSW program in collaboration with PSU. Funding to support increased capacity of existing counseling program.
	\$1M	Tuition and stipends	Locally-based latine organizations	Yes - Latine Focus, HSI goals	Increase recruitment and retention of underserved populations for Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), federal designation. Support more alcohol and drug counseling graduates.

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