

HB 3146 – A Safe Place to Wait

A Bill to Establish Waitlist Emergency Housing

The wait for residential treatment or withdrawal management is particularly dangerous for individuals who are homeless or unsafely housed. When a bed is not available at the moment of motivation, these individuals typically continue to live in chaotic and dangerous situations, and often cannot be found once a bed has become available. Difficulty locating wait-listed individuals delays admissions to residential treatment and undermines efficiency of the system as a whole.

Current Model

In Jackson County, behavioral health providers have used Measure 110 funding for a new model of care that provides emergency housing for homeless/unsafely housed individuals who are waiting for residential services.

- This is a low barrier approach. Individuals waiting for residential services are not required to reduce use patterns or engage in services, although that is an option.
- Participants must be assessed as needing residential services and/or withdrawal management and must be on waiting lists for those services.
- Each participant has daily contact with case management or peer support. Treatment is not offered on site; individuals may choose to attend day treatment or other outpatient services while waiting for residential care.
- Residents must attend residential treatment or withdrawal management when a bed becomes available or leave emergency housing.

Benefits

We are seeing significant success transferring individuals from emergency housing to residential treatment and/or withdrawal management:

- When an opening becomes available, providers can quickly move individuals, which ensures efficient use of the residential beds. Jackson County providers have successfully transferred 63% of homeless clients from wait list housing to residential treatment.
- Providers report that individuals use their time in emergency housing to begin to emotionally adjust to the concept of residential treatment, easing the individual's transition to the residential environment.
- This is a less expensive and much faster means to get people off the street and out of chaos.
- Wait list housing can be operated using peer mentors or case managers—a workforce that is much easier to find than the skilled behavioral/SUD therapists needed for residential treatment.

HB 3146

This legislation will support the development of waitlist emergency housing in communities across the state:

- Pilot 4-8 programs across Oregon
- Grants available for capital and operating expenses.
- Eligible applicants include behavioral health organizations with substance use disorder experience; residential substance use disorder treatment providers; or participants in Oregon Project Nurture.
- \$10M grant program administered through Oregon Health Authority

[Oregon lawmaker wants to expand emergency housing program for people with addictions](#)

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