



April 3, 2025

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to the deflection funding through the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.**

Clackamas County supports House Bill 5005: We support legislation that fully funds deflection programs to ensure that people who are suffering from substance use challenges are connected with the treatment and support they need rather than entering the justice system.

In response to HB 4002, counties were tasked with coordinating behavioral health services and public safety partners by standing up deflection programs. This program utilizes multiple services and ensures that people in possession of certain controlled substances are connected to substance abuse treatment instead of a citation. The resources needed to connect people to the appropriate treatment exceed the current funding. For this reason, we support the \$46.9 million request for county deflection programs.

This funding will enable counties to continue to run deflection programs in the next biennium and fund essential structural components, including:

- coordination of local partners, including the District Attorney, multiple law enforcement agencies, regional behavioral health providers, and peer supports
- case management and data tracking
- equipment, supplies and administration
- training and communications
- connections to wrap-around supports

Additionally, a key element of this program's success is the warm handoff between individuals facing substance use and peers who can connect them to treatment at their moment of need. Without the additional ~ \$7 million in funding, many will lack access to deflection services and essential treatment. As a result, they may become trapped in a cycle of substance use and justice system involvement, leading to worse outcomes for people and higher costs for both counties and the state.

We urge a "yes" vote on HB 5005.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.