



April 17, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: I/DD Funding Priorities

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To Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Our members include the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (a statewide coalition of people with I/DD or “self-advocates”), peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations, and developmental disability providers and the DD Act Network Partners.

Every person deserves the resources and supports necessary to live with dignity, independence, and full participation in their community. The following funding priorities would help Oregon fulfill those values with respect to persons with IDD:

- **Case Management:** Fully fund IDD Case Management Entities (CMEs) who offer a lifeline of support to more than 37,000 Oregonians. Each biennium DHS updates a “Workload Model” that shows how much it would cost the state to provide case management. However, last biennium the legislature only funded CMEs 86% of that model. For the 2025-2027 biennium, the legislature funding that model 100% will help those with IDD during a time of uncertainty, because case managers connect them to the services, housing, transportation, and in-home support they need.



- **Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) Wages:** Stabilize this essential workforce by ensuring them a minimum wage that keep pace with inflation. HB 2150-2 and SB 133-1 both propose Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) be included in provider contracts annually. Without COLAs, DSP wages remain static while the cost of necessities continue to rise. Higher wages for workers reduce interruptions in services and supports and make it easier to attract and retain skilled professionals in this critical field.
- **Existing Regional Family Networks:** Regional Family Networks (RFNs) provide peer-delivered support and systems navigation to thousands of families across the state. In order to sustain these underfunded networks, the DD Coalition supports an ODHS line-item budget of \$3.5 million in General Fund dollars for the 2025-27 biennium. RFNs have been under-resourced for many years, and the number of families who seek peer-delivered supports and service navigation continues to grow.
- **Expanding Self-Advocacy and Regional Family Networks:** The “Service Equity” Policy Option Package included in the DHS Agency Request Budget and Governor’s Recommended Budget will strengthen system navigation for Tribal members and includes \$600,000 to support Self-Advocacy and expand Regional Family Networks. Service equity means supporting Tribal Nations, Family Networks, and Self-Advocacy. Supporting Self-Advocacy means funding for people with disabilities to create a peer-driven network that helps them advocate for services, legal rights, and inclusion in education, work, and community life.

By supporting our Case Management Entities, Direct Service Professionals, Regional Family Networks, and Self-Advocates, people with IDD will find the resources and supports to help them thrive in the community.