

2019 State Legislative Agenda

Adopted: January 22, 2019



WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON

CleanWater Services
Our commitment is clear.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Defend local control to maintain the County's ability to design and implement programs that support, serve and respond to community and individual needs.

Support continued and, in certain circumstances, enhanced funding of programs and services which rely on state revenue sources.

Support collaborative efforts and the use of best practices.

Support legislation that balances economic interests and growth with a healthy environment.

Oppose efforts to preempt, restrict, reduce or eliminate existing revenue sources.

Oppose unfunded mandates.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & WORKFORCE TRAINING

Workforce Training Funding

Support efforts by Worksystems to increase local and statewide investments in work- force training programs that close the skills gap and prepare Oregonians for livable wage jobs and career advancement. The request also calls for the restoration of consistent and equitable funding formulas lost during the 2017-2019 biennium that consider population and per capita expenditures.

Local Government Economic Development Incentives

Support Oregon's existing tool box of economic development incentives available to local government and state agencies.

Protect Oregon's Strategic Investment program (SIP) & Gain Share agreements as Oregon's most important economic development tool for attracting new investments and encouraging additional investments from Oregon's existing business community.



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Support legislative efforts that establish funding stability for HHS services administered by the County. Maintain local government authority for community service delivery and seek additional state funding to support behavioral and public health programs.

Maintain and Monitor Funding Levels for All Health and Human Services (HHS) Programs.

Support HHS's role in coordinated care organizations (CCO), regulating the EMS system, early learning hubs, school-based health centers, jail diversion, opioid and addiction prevention and treatment, and other vital services. The important roles of protecting our communities are achieved through our ability to ensure adequate funding, regulation, clear local authority and accountability.

Support Adoption of CCO 2.0 Contracts That Increase The Connection to Counties, With an Emphasis on Behavioral and Public Health.

- Advocate for county endorsement of CCO applicants as part of the RFA process.
- Require contracts to address behavioral health parity, including parity in the behavioral health workforce.
- Contracts should emphasize and expand the roles of behavioral health and public health as cornerstones of future CCO success.
- At least one specific behavioral health and one specific public health metric should be added to the incentive pool.

Increase Funding for Developmental Disabilities Services to 100 percent of Workload Model.

Ensure funding is adequate to support all eligible community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Maintain and Monitor Current Levels of Authority and Accountability for All Health and Human Services (HHS) Programs.

To ensure continuity of important services throughout the county, including mental health, public health, EMS, and solid waste and recycling systems, counties must maintain their regulatory authority and oversight of these health and safety net services.

Increase Public Health Modernization Funding, With Emphasis on Communicable Diseases and Health Equities.

Support continued state funding and implementation of public health modernization plan to ensure counties are better prepared to prevent the spread of communicable and emerging diseases, address water and climate issues, and eliminate health disparities.



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CONTINUED

Increase Access to Supported, Affordable, Low-Barrier Housing

Supportive and residential housing services are wraparound social services that aim to increase an individual or family's ability to live consistently in stable housing. Available research suggests that supportive/residential housing services improve successful permanent housing.

Ensure Adequate Funding for Public Health Prevention Focused on Addiction and Opioid Epidemic, Tobacco, Marijuana, E-cigarettes, Obesity, Alcohol, With Emphasis on Prevention Efforts for Kids.

One percent of the CCO global budget should be invested in the Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) for community-based prevention and evidenced based strategies that target: reducing rising obesity rates; reducing adult tobacco use and preventing youth from getting addicted; reducing the number of low birth-weight babies and supporting infants and children; for growth and development; and reducing opioid and other substance abuse / misuse disorders.

Annual Oregon Medicaid expenditures in tobacco and obesity related illnesses are almost \$700 million annually. Reducing obesity rates and improving physical activity and nutrition can reduce health care costs through fewer doctor's office visits, fewer prescriptions, lower emergency room costs, and reduced admissions to the hospital.

- Support legislation that develops a "drug take back" program capable of creating consistent, reliable standards across Oregon.

Improve Child Health and Well-being.

Continue service level funding for supporting community-based programs and services ensure families are healthy, stable and attached, and children are ready for kindergarten by:

- Increasing school-based health centers (SBHCs) capacity funds to ensure funding parity for current SBHCs and support development of new SBHCs.
- Expand funding to schools and other community-based organizations to implement trauma-informed services
- Increase supply of high quality and affordable infant/toddler care (prenatal-3)
- Increase supply of community-based family supports
- Strengthen socio-behavioral health supports



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, CONTINUED

Support Legislation That Protects Human Health Through Assurance of Healthy Environments.

Support legislation to reduce single-use plastic, supports Extended Producer Responsibility for Household Hazardous Waste products and medication take back programs. Support legislation that can help expedite the permitting and opening of a debris management site following a disaster within Oregon's land use system. This is largely about making it possible for DEQ to expedite its solid waste site/facility permitting process. Monitor air quality legislation such as wood stove exchange programs and clean diesel.

- Support additional funding for DEQ budget proposal of \$500,000 for state-wide wood stove exchange program.



TRANSPORTATION

Support efforts that will maximize efficiency, promote safety, improve transparency and stabilize investment in Oregon's multimodal, transportation system, and State Highway Fund.

Protect dedicated revenue sources generated from the transportation sector and support existing distribution of state highway funds under the 50-30-20 formula. Provide additional flexibility at the local level to expand the use of state highway funds for use on carbon reduction strategies. This is intended to be an overlay of policy as the Cap and Invest legislative package is developed during the 2019 session.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Support efforts that secure local government flexibility in funding services and advocate for policies that recognizes the critical partnership between state and local governments.

Improve Qualification-Based Selection (QBS).

Preserve the existing QBS process while creating an alternative QBS process that includes a step before awarding bids to allow for pricing information on professional contracts.



HOUSING

Support legislation that provides funding for key, priority affordable housing services and creates new opportunities for affordable housing programs.

Support Additional Funds for Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP).

Across Oregon, we have an effective system to distribute emergency rent assistance, rapid re-housing resources, and emergency shelter support. Additional resources are needed to meet the needs of people experiencing housing instability.

Support Increases in Rental Assistance Programs.

OHCS and OHA are working to align systems to better serve people with severe and persistent mental health needs. Currently, OHA has a rental assistance fund that could be increased and aligned with OHCS resources and help create better alignment with the continuum of care model.

Extend Property Tax Exemption.

Support legislation that extends local option property tax exemptions to help build and support affordable housing.

Support Expanded Use of General Obligation Bonds for Affordable Housing.

Additional resources to develop affordable housing are needed. OHCS plans to request additional general obligation bonds.

Support Legislation That Increases Resources for Preserving Existing Affordable Housing.

We need resources to preserve existing affordable housing, including regulated, multifamily affordable housing and manufactured home parks.

Support Legislation That Expands the Definition of Preservation.

Current efforts have focused on preserving affordable housing that has federal rental assistance contracts. Support efforts to broaden the definition to include regulated affordable housing without federal rental assistance properties, including properties with expiring Low Income Housing Tax Credit contracts, as well as properties in need of upgrade and rehabilitation.

Preserve Housing Options for People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Projects built with CIP bonds that are now set to expire will need further support to preserve the properties for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Encouraging Development of Condos as an Affordable Homeownership Strategy.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Support legislative efforts that create stable funding, improved decision making and planning to keep Washington County a safe place to live, work and thrive.

Grand Jury Recordation Costs.

In 2017 the State Legislature passed SB 505 which mandated that all grand jury proceedings are recorded by a recording device. Three counties (Jackson, Multnomah, and Deschutes) were part of the initial phase-in that started March 1, 2018. Revenue from the State was expected to reimburse the costs of the infrastructure, added time from the District Attorney's office, IT costs, and other one-time expenses. All costs associated with the policy change for the three counties were estimated at \$920,000 for a period starting March 1 – June 30, 2018.

Entering the 2019 session Washington County will advocate for funding to meet the expectations of our District Attorney's office and the broader agreements reached between the Oregon's District Attorney Association and state legislators. For Washington County alone, the DA's office estimates a first year implementation of approximately \$200,000. This would include hard costs associated with infrastructure, IT needs, and physical staffing dedicated to implementing recordation and oversight.

State Grant in Aid (GIA) Community Corrections Baseline Funding.

Support a baseline funding level of \$329 million for 2019-2021, based on the most recent time study. This compares to the Governor's proposed budget level of \$279 million.

The GIA is the baseline funding that is the foundation of everything within community corrections including Justice Reinvestment (JRI), local prison diversion, and wrap around services.

JJIS Modernization.

The Juvenile Justice Information System requires a significant investment to bring the system up to current technology standards. The modernization package includes state investment funding for substantial improvements in real-time data entry, mobile access to information, mapping features, and integration with multiple devices. Effort will take a continual appropriation of funds over a 5-year period with 2019 representing the starting point for investments.

Oregon Youth Authority (Children & Youth with Special Needs Work Group).

Support recommendations identified by a work group brought together by Oregon Youth Authority to strengthen service delivery.

- Strengthen and develop community services
- Create regional assessment programs
- Stabilize capacity across the continuum of care
- Ensure accurate and timely data is available across child-serving systems
- Strengthen the system of care at state and local levels

Support Clean Water Services efforts to maintain and improve the infrastructure, innovation and efficiency of water resources that ensure quality of life throughout the Tualatin River watershed.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Budget

- Monitor DEQ's budget recommendations to improve Oregon's water quality through the development of up-to-date and consistent permits and fees that ensure all Oregonians are investing in clean water by retaining public investment in an effective permit program.
- Seek opportunities to partner with DEQ on the development and implementation of water quality regulations to ensure the timely issuance and renewal of scientifically based permits and policies.
- Monitor proposed fee increases or cost-sharing proposals to ensure fairness and equality that produce meaningful improvements to Oregon's environment and economic health.
- Monitor legislation and policies related to the regulation, monitoring and management of municipal storm water permits to preserve the federal Clean Water Act-mandated reduction of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).

Water Resource Management

- Monitor Governor Brown's 100-Year Water Vision and any resulting Natural Resource agency policy option packages related to the assessment, monitoring, management and investment in Oregon's built and natural water infrastructure.
- Support proposals that advance Integrated Water Resource Management principles to meet the long-term water needs of local governments, agriculture, fish, and wildlife; and ensure the efficient delivery of water infrastructure projects.

Resource Recovery and Renewal

• Reuse & Bio-solids

- Support cost effective and sustainable management of biosolids and water reuse programs
- Support legislation to encourage the broader reuse of reclaimed water to balance Oregon's water needs and leverage the state's overall strategy to meet water quality standards.

• Energy Efficiency and Generation

- Support legislation that ensures public investments in energy efficiency, conservation, generation and renewable power are encouraged and supported.

System Development Charges (SDCs)

- Monitor SDC legislative concepts to ensure growth pays for its impact on public infrastructure

Public Contracting

- Allow for price comparison when procuring services of architects and engineers in order to provide efficient use of ratepayer revenues.
- Promote efficient use of state and local government resources, maximizing the economic investment in public contracting by fostering competition for goods and services in order to arrive at the best value purchases that takes into consideration service, quality and price.

Product Stewardship

- Support legislation to engage manufacturers of household hazardous waste to take responsibility for managing the waste associated with their products. This includes proper recovery of unused, prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals.

Cleaner Air Oregon

- Monitor potential legislation. Support legislation providing public health and safety exemption for emergency power generators including those enrolled in PGE's Dispatchable Standby Generator Program.