

2026 Public Policy Agenda

Meet People Where They Are: Create Trust and Deliver Community-Based Services

- Lead meaningful expansion of transitional recovery housing, residential treatment beds, and behavioral health services for those experiencing homelessness and substance use disorder.
- Secure expanded funding and access (standardization) for mobile services, including nursing, psychiatry, and wound care.
- Support extension of the sunset for the supportive housing services tax, and continued support and investment in rental assistance and housing stability programs.
- Engage in advocacy efforts to ensure the continuation of telemedicine services, with a focus on understanding and influencing state-level decisions that impact these programs.

Support Connected and Equitable Care

- Lead in pushing for better compensation and recognition for culturally specific providers, including those without language skills, through methods such as pay differentials. Ensure any policy changes are well-coordinated and legally vetted, focusing on defining the unique knowledge, skills, and experience needed for specific service offerings.
- Preserve the Healthier Oregon program.
- Advocate for building resilience and community health protections through energy efficiency, seismic upgrades in buildings, and expanded renewable energy access, alongside measures that promote cleaner air and water, and reduce exposure to extreme heat and toxic materials.
- Advance economic opportunity and stabilize long-term operating costs by supporting access to affordable clean transportation and workforce development in sustainable industries, paired with programs that help manage rising utility costs, adapt to changing energy regulations, and reduce financial risks for housing and clinical services related to extreme weather events.

Close Key Care Gaps

- Ensure adequate care standards in behavioral health services.
- Increase the available acute mental health resources for people with serious and persistent mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder services, including oversight of the revision of civil commitment standards.
- Lead in low barrier access to medications for opioid use, including loosened restrictions on methadone, and long-acting injectables (including psychiatric therapies) - advocacy should include sustainable reimbursement standards.
- Promote reimbursement for innovative ideas such as medical respite and recuperative care services statewide

Align Systems and Partners for Impact: Using Experience, Data, and Reputation to Improve Systems

- Partner with Metro, county, and city leaders to align, improve and reform social services programs, ensuring that these systems maximize regional resources.
- Ensure financial stability and continued operation of affordable housing that serves low-income populations, including the creation of a state-backed insurance pool.

Strengthen and Sustain the Work to End Homelessness: Workforce Resilience

- Address the overburdening of administrative requirements, particularly where the work cannot be reimbursed or is tied to fidelity measures. Request administrative rate coverage and ensure timely rate approvals, contract renewals, and invoicing.
- Advocate for funding mechanisms that help support our behavioral health and human services workforce (apprenticeships, job training, employee wellbeing, wrap around supports, wage improvement, and workforce housing).