



Dear Senate President Wagner, Speaker Rayfield, Senator Steiner, and Representative Sanchez

We are writing to you today to ask that you fund the Community Corrections “Grant-in-Aid” for counties at the 2021-23 level of \$284 million.

The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, and Corrections Health serve a vital role in protecting public safety and strengthening communities. The departments support all community members through exemplary public safety and correctional services.

As essential front-line professionals, the County partners with healthcare providers, emergency housing agencies, community-based organizations, and local governments to reduce service silos and ensure all community members, especially those most vulnerable, are safe and well-supported.

Community Justice provides supervision, sanctions, and treatment resources to more than **7,500 adults and 600 youth** throughout the year to address the underlying problems that drive crime.

The Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office provides custody to over **15,000 individuals** annually and is required to meet constitutional mandates related to physical safety, access to recreation, and religious freedoms.

The County has invested significant resources in providing services over the past five years—a proposed \$290.3M in just FY 2024 – **an increase of \$17.6M over the FY 2023 amount.**

We ask that the Legislature fund Community Corrections “Grant-in-Aid” for counties at the 2021-23 level of \$284 million.

Without funding Community Corrections at the \$284 million level, Multnomah County’s Department of Community Justice will be forced to eliminate 23 positions, resulting in a reduction of housing and treatment services. To add to these impacts, **Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office will have to eliminate 19.38 FTE and close three dorms (the equivalent of 215 Beds in the Multnomah County Jail).** These outcomes will result in individuals receiving less supervision and possibly the emergency release of individuals in Multnomah County Jail.

Adequate funding for Community Corrections and the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Department is vital for the safety and well-being of our community. **Please fund Community Corrections at the 2021-23 level of \$284 million.**

Sincerely,



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair



Ted Wheeler
City of Portland Mayor



Nicole Morrisey O'Donnell
Multnomah County Sheriff



Andrew Hoan
President & CEO, Portland Business
Alliance