



The Human Services Coalition asks our legislators to consider the human cost of enacting cuts to critical services. The current budget proposals will have a devastating impact on our most vulnerable Oregonians and undermine the social fabric that supports our middle class.

Make sure you tell our Legislators:

Before you do this...

Impact 7,000 low-income families' ability to meet basic needs by cuts to TANF that will:

- Enact among the shortest lifetime time limits in the country for TANF participation
- Eliminate post-TANF support for newly employed families
- Eliminate the educational opportunities for TANF families.

Enact major cuts to Seniors & People with Disabilities programs that will:

- Slash rates for skilled nursing facilities, threatening many that care for Medicaid patients with closure;
- Forfeit more than \$232 million in matching federal funds;
- Cost Oregon over 7,000 long-term care jobs, mainly for working women.

Cut services to domestic violence victims, allowing:

- 2,182 emergency crisis calls to go unanswered;
- 109 victims and their children to lose 2,238 shelter nights;
- 89 children and 455 adults to go without support and safety planning services.

Remove 38 conditions from the Oregon Health Plan's prioritized services:

- Leaving serious mental health and physical conditions untreated;
- Risking more serious conditions that are covered by the Oregon Health Plan, but at greater cost to the state and suffering to the individual.

Cut \$100 million from Development Disabilities programs thereby eliminating:

- The Alternative to Employment program currently serving 2,400 individuals;
- Support to 1,200 families caring for a child with disabilities that allows them in-home care;
- Services for 2,000 non-Medicaid eligible individuals with disabilities (of 7,000 currently served). *If only 19 individuals go into crisis, the cost of crisis services will exceed the proposed savings.*

Cut Family Support and Connections services in half which

- Leaves three of four kids without support;
- Forces more kids into the child welfare system.

Reduce service provider reimbursements by 19%,

- Making it more difficult for low-income families to find the medical care they need, especially in rural areas of the state.

Do this:

Enable further innovations to improve service delivery.

- The on-going work to examine systems at DHS has been extremely effective at removing unnecessary steps in administrative processes. This provides more effective service delivery to clients. Continued focus in this area will create more savings and efficiencies.

Ramp-up enforcement and collection of delinquent tax payments by scofflaws who currently owe Oregon in back taxes. Estimates range as high as \$700 million in uncollected monies owed to the state.

Consider new revenue.

- Targeted efforts to raise revenue will reduce the drastic cuts being contemplated.

Use the resources we have.

- We have stability funds and Rainy Day accounts for moments just like this one. We urge you to use these funds before making deep cuts.

Legislate less costly and more effective approaches to public safety that keep our communities safe and address and prevent the root cause of problems.

- The vast majority of crimes are in some way drug related, yet Oregon is far from meeting the need for addiction treatment.
- Investing in treatment on the front end to reduce unsustainable costs in the prison system on the back end is common sense. Prison is no substitute for a mental health system stretched to the breaking point.

Rein in tax expenditures.

- Tax credits and itemized deductions that benefit corporations and wealthy individuals have outgrown program spending in the last twenty years. Eliminate or means test them.

Keep in mind the powerful employment implications that federal matching dollars bring to the state.

- By taking advantage of federal matching funds, many private sector jobs that provide valuable services can keep thousands more families from joining the unemployment lines.

The cuts proposed will come at a great human and social cost. We must do everything we can to protect the health and dignity of all Oregonians.