



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners  
FROM: Nicole Von Laven, Crisis Program Manager; Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director  
DATE: March 7, 2025  
SUBJECT: Opioid Settlement Dollars

Dear Commissioners,

As you are aware, the Deschutes County Stabilization Center (DCSC) opened in June of 2020. The DCSC serves individuals of all ages, regardless of ability to pay, who are experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis. Individuals can walk in or can be brought in voluntarily by Law Enforcement (LE) in lieu of the hospital or jail, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) is now embedded in the DCSC, which allows all staff at the DCSC to respond as well to the community in pairs of two without LE. To date, the DCSC has served over 4,500 unique individuals and conducted over 15,500 visits. LE continues to spend less than five minutes dropping individuals off at the facility and approximately 30% of individuals are diverted from the emergency department or jail. Most importantly, 171 people have reported they would have ended their life had the DCSC not been there to help them at their time of need. Current data, based on self-report, conservatively demonstrates that 28.5% of individuals who receive services at DCSC identify as using substances, with 11.8% being actively under the influence during the intervention

Opioid Settlement Dollars have specific allotted uses which are aligned to the work of the DCSC :

- Section C: Connecting People Who Need Help to the Help They Need
- Section D: Address the Needs of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons

Despite continued collaboration and support, our local law enforcement partners have notified us that they will no longer be able to contribute funding to the crisis program in the same manner as they have been doing for Fiscal Year 2026. Despite this change, our LE partners remain highly committed to continued collaboration in various ways and this is in no way a reflection of their support for this work. However, given these dynamics and the alignment of the work with Opioid Settlement Dollar uses, we respectfully request that \$320,000 Opioid Settlement Dollar funding be directed to the DCSC in an effort to help shore up some of the loss in funding that has been identified and continue operations at the current level throughout FY 26.

Respectfully,

*Holly Harris*

Holly Harris  
Behavioral Health Director