

Juvenile Community Justice: Opioid Settlement Funds Request FY26

Amount Requested: \$100,000

- \$50,000 for Juvenile Peer Recovery Mentor Program
- \$50,000 to Support Staff Time for SUD Treatment for Youth

<u>Eligibility Category</u>: Support for youth with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and co-occurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or Mental Health (MH) conditions, specifically focusing on justice-involved youth. Also supports prevention and misuse of opioids in terms of support/education/skill building for youth in treatment.

<u>Proposal Narrative:</u> Juvenile Community Justice provides community supervision and behavioral health services for justice involved youth in Deschutes County. We aim to repair harm, reduce risks, and create opportunities for youth and their families, particularly those impacted by substance use disorders. Our behavioral health unit includes four licensed clinicians and a certified alcohol and drug counselor. Historically, justice involved youth in Deschutes County have faced challenges in securing timely access to quality treatment, as local service providers struggle with long waitlists, staffing shortages, and financial barriers. Our solution to this problem is to enhance our current service offering by expanding into providing direct SUD treatment. We are in the process of launching an SUD treatment pilot program and the hope would be that by July of 2025 we have a small group of youth enrolled in SUD treatment. These clinicians also work directly with the youth and family providing Functional Family Therapy.

With this funding, we will continue implementation of an SUD program designed to meet the needs of youth experiencing substance use issues. Our clinicians will provide individual assessments and treatment for youth. We are working with a local peer mentor provider to build a recovery mentor program, with a focus on youth going through our in-house SUD services. This program is currently in the development phase and these funds would be used to support services that we anticipate being ready to launch in July of 2025. Peer mentors, with lived experience, will support youth in their recovery journey, while working with our staff who will provide SUD treatment. The provider we collaborate with is unique in that they base their healing approach on community and family connections and support. This complements our SUD services and Functional Family Therapy. We are continuing to work through the process to be able to bill OHP, but we anticipate this being at least six to nine months out.

Desired Outcomes:

- Timely Access to Services: Youth receive quicker access to treatment services, including screenings, assessments, therapy, and peer support, reducing wait times and barriers to care.
- Increased Recovery Support: Peer recovery mentors will provide valuable support, offering youth the opportunity to connect with others who have lived through similar experiences and can model successful recovery strategies.

Expected Impacts:

- Improved Youth Outcomes: By providing SUD treatment and support, youth in the juvenile
 justice system will be less likely to recidivate, will have reduced substance use, and improved
 overall well-being.
- Enhanced Community Collaboration and Development of Juvenile Peery Recovery Support Program: Our efforts will strengthen existing partnerships with a local service provider and help provide funding to bridge a gap in peery recovery services for Juveniles in Deschutes County.