

Division: Behavioral Health

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The Deflection and Sobering program is part of the Behavioral Health Division's Addiction Services unit and is funded through a State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission grant, the County, and the City of Portland. The program operates 24/7 at the Coordinated Care Pathway Center (a temporary location), with a field-based option in Gresham. Per HB 4002, deflection is a collaboration between law enforcement and behavioral health to keep individuals out of the carceral system.

Pathway Center deflection services include medical and behavioral health screenings, care coordination, peer support, referrals, basic needs and housing support, specific connections to recovery housing, referrals to services, transportation, and outreach. Field-based includes screenings, care coordination, and referrals. Deflected individuals may opt into sobering. Law enforcement, first responders, and community providers refer to both deflection and sobering. Over 600 individuals were referred to deflection in year one.

Services help people who are intoxicated get sober and connect with community services, including treatment, recovery, and shelter/housing. The center has 13 sobering stations. Sobering includes observation, stabilizing medication, and peer support. Care plans, referrals, and transportation are provided once clients complete sobering. Funding from the City of Portland funds costs including sobering operations and for two outreach workers dedicated to connections to recovery housing, transportation, direct client assistance, and program evaluation. Deflection and sobering services will move to a permanent 24/7 Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center in 2027. Recovery Housing Rental Voucher Program is now also tied to this program offer. The PATH team has historically provided care coordination across the full continuum of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services, including SUD treatment, other recovery-related services, and placements in recovery housing. Two PATH team employees will now be dedicated to recovery housing.

Equity Statement

The Deflection and Sobering program closely tracks and assesses referrals into and engagement with the program, including participant demographics, to identify and address health inequities related to race/ethnicity and housing status. The program utilizes peer support (delivered by individuals with lived experience) to meet people where they are with compassion, cultural humility, and dignity.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	2026 General Fund	2026 Other Funds	2027 General Fund	2027 Other Funds
Personnel	\$201,289	\$994,017	\$207,863	\$1,354,241
Contractual Services	\$0	\$4,354,704	\$0	\$2,368,460
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$307	\$0	\$408,056
Internal Services	\$0	\$864,824	\$259,920	\$1,019,243
Total GF/non-GF	\$201,289	\$6,213,852	\$467,783	\$5,150,000
Total Expenses:	\$6,415,141		\$5,617,783	
Program FTE	1.00	6.00	1.00	9.00
Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$6,213,852	\$0	\$5,150,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$6,213,852	\$0	\$5,150,000

Performance Measures

Performance Measure	FY25 Actual	FY26 Estimate	FY27 Target
Percent of individuals referred to deflection who engage in deflection by receiving services at the pathway center	N/A	65%	70%
Number of individuals referred to recovery housing	N/A	N/A	100