

Division: Behavioral Health

Program Characteristics:

Program Description

The Deflection and Sobering program is part of the Behavioral Health Division’s (BHD) Addiction Services unit. Deflection and Sobering are funded through a State of Oregon Criminal Justice Commission deflection grant, Multnomah County, and the City of Portland. The Deflection and Sobering program operates 24/7 at the Coordinated Care Pathway Center (a temporary location), with a field-based deflection option in Gresham. Per HB 4002, deflection is a collaboration between law enforcement and behavioral health to keep individuals out of the carceral system. The program goal is to assist individuals who may have substance use disorder, another behavioral health disorder, or co-occurring disorders in accessing pathways to treatment, recovery support services, case management, shelter, housing, or other services outside of the carceral system.

Pathway Center deflection services include medical and behavioral health screenings, care coordination, peer support, referrals, basic needs support, referrals, and transportation. 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.

Pathway Center sobering services help people who are intoxicated get sober and connect with community services, including treatment, recovery, and shelter/housing. The Pathway 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 will be applied to costs including sobering operations and outreach services, transportation, direct client assistance, and program evaluation. Deflection and sobering services will move to a permanent 24/7 Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center in 2027.

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 sobering referral partners	3	11	20