



What Can You Do to Save Mental Health Funding?

A simple action on your part will help preserve community mental health funding for those living with severe and moderate mental illnesses.

Background: In preparation for a significant revenue shortfall, the Joint Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislature asked state agencies to plan for budget cuts of 30 percent in the 2009-11 biennium. **Under this scenario, community mental health funding for those living with severe mental illness would be slashed.** Oregon cannot and should not balance the budget on the back of the state's most vulnerable.

What should NAMI members do?

- **Ways and Means Committee members need to hear from you.** Attend a public hearing, make a phone call, send an email!
- **Members need to hear that recovery from a mental health crisis is possible,** and dollars are best spent on community services that prevent people from reaching a crisis.

Without vital community treatment resources, people will end up in the Oregon State Hospital, in jails, on the street — or worse. The state general fund won't realize any savings.

Here's a partial list of proposed cuts that would:

- **Eliminate nearly all outpatient mental health services for adults** not covered by the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). About 6,000 people would be dropped from treatment services offered in their communities, thrusting them into crisis.
- **Eliminate 80 step-down community placements** for individuals being treated at the Oregon State Hospital. Without a step-down placement, people would be forced to stay at the state hospital.
- **Eliminate acute inpatient psychiatric care for 3,400 people.**
- **Eliminate the Community Mental Health Housing Trust Fund.** Interest earned on the trust is the state's only source of funds for building supported housing for individuals living with a mental illness.

Let Ways and Means Committee members and your legislators know.....

Treatment Works. Recovery is possible.

Don't gut our community mental health system.