


health justice recovery alliance

Understanding Oregon's New Law: The Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act

In November 2020, Oregon voters made history by passing Measure 110, the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act. The new law decriminalizes personal possession of small amounts of all drugs, while expanding access to addiction treatment and other health services.

Oregonians across the state voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Act, passing it by a 17-point margin. The new law will generate between \$103 million to \$157 million a year for addiction services -- four to six times more than what Oregon currently spends on non-Medicaid funding for those services.

A new law at a critical time

Oregon's lack of addiction recovery services is destroying lives and exacerbating many of our state's most pressing problems, like houselessness.

- People are dying from drug overdoses every single day, while one in 10 Oregonians struggles with Substance Use Disorder.
- The pandemic is only making things worse; new data from the Oregon Health Authority show that drug overdose deaths in Oregon were up 70 percent in 2020 compared to that same time in 2019.
- People of color, specifically Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities and low-income Oregonians, continue to be disproportionately harmed by Oregon's failed approach of treating addiction like a crime, rather than a health issue; they are underrepresented in the healthcare system, while being overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

The Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act offers an innovative solution to help Oregonians and their families now, at a time when Oregon's addiction crisis is growing at an alarming rate.

Lawmakers must ensure that the law is funded without delay.

The Oregon Legislature has a duty to honor voters' wishes and invest in addiction recovery services. People experiencing Substance Use Disorder — and their loved ones — can't afford to wait. Most, if not all, Oregonians know someone who has struggled with addiction. When we lose one person to addiction, that loss creates ripples and impacts all of us. The Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act offers an opportunity to stand up for Oregon's values of racial equity, justice and healing. We can revitalize communities, keep families whole and open up economic opportunities by funding the law now.

How the Act works

- 1. The new law will utilize and expand existing community-based providers** as addiction recovery centers to provide services throughout the state to immediately assess the needs of people who use drugs and link them to treatment, care and services.
- 2. Drug possession will be decriminalized**, reducing criminal possession offenses from misdemeanors to civil infractions. Instead of arrests and criminal records, people found to be possessing small amounts of drugs will be cited and fined \$100. They will be given the phone number for a 24/7 hotline to connect them with a local peer support specialist. The peer will conduct a social services needs assessment. Upon completion, their fine will be waived and they will be linked to vital services.
- 3. It increases access to vital services**, including:
 - **Behavioral Health Treatment** that is evidence-based, trauma-informed, culturally specific, linguistically accessible, and patient-centered;
 - **Peer support and recovery services** designed to help people remain clean and sober;
 - **Housing** for persons with Substance Use Disorder;
 - **Harm reduction** interventions including overdose prevention, access to naloxone hydrochloride and other drug education and outreach.
- 4. Services will be paid for with grants** from excess cannabis tax revenue above \$45 million a year and law enforcement savings. The other \$45 million will continue to go where it does now, for schools, public safety and drug addiction treatment and services.
- 5. It guarantees oversight and accountability.** The Act establishes an Oversight and Accountability Council composed of people with lived experience and addiction and service delivery experts. Supported by the Oregon Health Authority, the Council will determine how funds will be distributed to grant applicants for increasing community access to care. The Secretary of State will conduct financial and performance audits every two years.

Timeline for implementation

- **December 3, 2020:** Law goes into effect. At least \$57 million in funds from cannabis tax revenue will be transferred to the Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund for the first year of the Act.
- **February 1, 2021:** Decriminalization provisions take effect; Oversight & Accountability Council must be appointed; 24/7 telephone hotline must be established.
- **June 1:** Oregon Administrative Rules to distribute grant money by the Council must be adopted.
- **October:** Addiction recovery centers/services must be available in each CCO region.

For More Information Contact:

Claudia Black, Government Relations, at claudia@healthjusticerecovery.org.



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The newly formed Health Justice Recovery Alliance is the statewide advocacy coalition working to ensure that the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act is implemented without delay. Our work centers around the needs of the communities most harmed by the War on Drugs -- Black, Latinx, Native and tribal communities. The coalition represents more than 75 community-based organizations across the state with deep knowledge and experience working to serve and strengthen local communities: medical associations, culturally-specific organizations, labor, harm reduction and recovery providers and advocates, people in recovery and more.

ACLU of Oregon	Law Enforcement Action Partnership
Addictions Recovery Center, Inc.	Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon
Alano Club of Portland	NAACP Eugene/Springfield
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon	NAACP Portland
BerniePDX	NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon
Black Unity	NAYA Family Center
Bridges to Change	New Approach Oregon
Basic Rights Oregon	NextUp Oregon
Brown Hope	Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Cascade AIDS Project	Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Causa	Oregon DA for the People
Central City Concern	Oregon Food Bank
Changing Patterns	Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Coalition of Communities of Color	Oregon Nurses Association
Community Alliance of Lane County	Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine
Crime Victim Rights Alliance	Oregon Working Families Party
Democratic Party of Multnomah County	Our Revolution Central Willamette
East County Rising	Outside In
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon	Outside the Frame
Escudo Latino	p:ear
Family Forward Oregon	Pacific Northwest Family Circle
Forward Together Action	Partnership for Safety and Justice
Freedom to Thrive	Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos Del
Health Care for All Oregon	Noroeste
HIV Alliance	PHOENIX Rising Transitions
Human Impact Partners	Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
IBEW Local 48	Portland Jobs with Justice
Impact NW	Prism Health
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland	Rahab's Sisters
Justice Advocates	
Latino Network	

RecordSponge
Remnant Initiatives
Rhythm Nation
Rural Organizing Project
SAfER
SEIU 503 and 49
Sierra Club Oregon Chapter
Sponsors, Inc.

Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Sunrise Beaverton
UFCW Local 555
Unite Oregon
White Bird Clinic
WomenFirst Transition & Referral Center
Yes on 110
YWCA of Greater Portland