

**TUESDAY WORK SESSION AGENDA**  
**April 8, 2025**  
**Courthouse Conference Room**

THE LOCATION OF THIS MEETING IS ADA ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS (503-623-8173) AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS TO ATTEND OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING VIRTUALLY.

**Approximate  
Time**

**AGENDA**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  |
|           | 2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda and limited to 3 minutes. We encourage all community members to engage with public comments to the Board of Commissioners. However, out of respect for our audience and a general sense of decorum please refrain from vulgar, threatening or inappropriate language.) |
|           | 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA  |
|           | 4. APPROVE MINUTES OF March 25, 2025   |
|           | 5. JRP LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUEST – Jodi Merritt  |
|           | 6. NON-LISTED ITEMS (Pursuant to ORS 192.640)  |

Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. The meetings are held in the Board of Commissioners' conference room, 850 Main Street, Dallas, Oregon. Each meeting begins at 9:00 a.m., and is conducted according to a prepared agenda that lists the principal subjects anticipated to be considered. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners may consider and take action on subjects that are not listed on the agenda. The Board also holds a department staff meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Every Monday in the Commissioners Conference Room at 850 main Street, Oregon.

A public meeting of the Budget Committee for Polk County will be held in the Main Conference Room, Polk County Courthouse, 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 and to receive the budget message and document. The public meeting will continue on Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Additional time is reserved for public comment at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 23, 2025. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after April 18, 2025 at the Board of Commissioners' Office, Polk County Courthouse, during regular business hours. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed budget with the Budget Committee. Please advise the Board of Commissioners (503-623-9237) at least 24 hours in advance if you need special accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting virtually.

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**APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED CITIZENS**

The Board sets aside a time at each regular meeting for comment by the public on subjects not appearing on the Agenda. Individuals may come forward and make any statement they wish, but not to exceed three (3) minutes in length, except as is required to give concise answers to questions from Board members. If the subject will require a lengthier presentation, or merits inclusion as an item on the Agenda of a future meeting, the Board may schedule it accordingly.

**POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 25, 2025**

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

**2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):**

None.

**3. AGENDA:**      **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**

**ALL VOTED YES.  
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**4. MINUTES:**      **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF March 18, 2025**

**ALL VOTED YES.  
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**5. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT PROPOSAL**

Aleisha Preston, Academia Early Learning Center, went over a google slides presentation for the Board and is requesting \$30,000 from the Business Development Grant Fund. The presentation went over their background information, who and what the learning center is, their staff, why they are requesting these funds and what they plan to use them for, the needs in the community, where the location will be, the details of the after-school program, budget highlights and what the next steps will be should the Board approve their funding request. When talking about the need in the Polk County community for child care, she stated that only 17% of students have access to child care and anything less than 33% is considered a "desert." Commissioner Pope asked if that 17% includes Head start programs and Ms. Preston stated that yes, it does. Commissioner Pope asked if this service will be available if school is closed and Ms. Preston stated that as long as they have the staffing for it, they will open up all day for those children. Commissioner Pope asked her to talk about what the rates will be and Ms. Preston answered his question. Commissioner Pope stated that he feels like this sound like an amazing program and asked if she has any thoughts or plans for future expansion and Ms. Preston stated that they would like to expand to Monmouth/Independence at some point because the need is high. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if there was room for expansion in this location and Ms. Preston stated that 25 is the max due to the size of the building. Commissioner Gordon praised her for her hard work on this as well. Commissioner Gordon asked what she was doing to make sure people know that they are just using the location of a church building but that they are not affiliated with the church and Ms. Preston answered his question. Brent DeMoe, Polk County FCO Director, shared some data from the Oregon Market Study for fulltime childcare costs. Commissioner Pope asked when they plan to open if they gave her a yes today and Ms. Preston stated that their goal is to open by June 1, 2025.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON  
SECONDED TO APPROVE THEIR FUNDING REQUEST OF \$30,000 FROM THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.**

**ALL VOTED YES.  
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

**6. NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the  
below identified non-listed items.)  
None.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda  
Approved: April 1, 2025

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Criminal Justice Commission  
885 Summer Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2524

RE: Polk County Justice Reinvestment Grant Applications

Dear Commission Members,

The Polk County Board of Commissioners joins our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) in supporting the County's Justice Reinvestment formula grant application for the 2025-2027 biennium.

The LPSCC Justice Reinvestment Sub-committee gathered to discuss the upcoming grant applications and formulated a recommendation. The scope of the funding recommendations for the formula furthers our commitment to public safety and the citizens of Polk County. We fully support the Justice Reinvestment Grant proposals as developed and recommended by the LPSCC subcommittee.

We are confident that our County's grant applications meets the requirements of the grant and hopefully addresses the legislative directives to reduce the prison population, reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and increase offender accountability.

Thank you for reviewing our Plan.

Yours truly,

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Craig Pope, Chair

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Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner

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Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner



## **Polk County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council**

April 2, 2025

Criminal Justice Commission  
885 Summer Street NE  
Salem, OR 973011

Re: Polk County Justice Reinvestment Grant Application

Dear Commission Members,

On behalf of the Polk County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC), I would like to provide this letter of support for the Polk County Justice Reinvestment Formula grant application for funding provided by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

With this current application request, the JRI sub-committee met to discuss the potential continuation of current programs and services, as well as any potential need for new programs within our criminal justice community.

The programs identified in the formula grant application will continue to focus on offender accountability, recidivism reduction, decreasing prison usage and increasing public safety. Our continued focus is to provide essential criminal justice programs within the community that provide the necessary support and services to justice involved individuals, while also maintaining public safety and holding people accountable. We feel this application provides support for service gaps while also focusing on the four goals of the Justice Reinvestment program.

The Polk County LPSCC fully supports this application and encourages your support of our local programs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Garton'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheriff Mark Garton  
LPSCC Chair

# Application: Polk County

Jodi Merritt - merritt.jodi@co.polk.or.us  
Justice Reinvestment Program 25-27

## Summary

ID: 0000000021

## Cover Sheet

Completed - Mar 11 2025

## Cover Sheet

County

Polk

### Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Chair Contact

Name:	Mark Garton
Preferred Title (e.g. Sheriff, Judge)	Sheriff
Email:	<a href="mailto:garton.mark@co.polk.or.us">garton.mark@co.polk.or.us</a>
Phone:	503-623-9251

## Primary Applicant Contact

Name:	Jodi Merritt
Organization:	Polk County Community Corrections
Title:	Director
Street Address:	820 SW Church Street, Suite 100
City:	Dallas
Zip Code:	97338
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:merritt.jodi@polkcountyor.gov">merritt.jodi@polkcountyor.gov</a>
Phone:	503-623-5226

# Application: Polk County

Jodi Merritt - merritt.jodi@co.polk.or.us  
Justice Reinvestment Program 25-27

## Summary

ID: 0000000021

## Consultation of Data Dashboards

Completed - Mar 18 2025

## Consultation of Data Dashboards



## 1. Prison Use Dashboard – [Prison Use Dashboard](#)

Has your county's prison usage increased over the past 12 months or exceeded your historic baseline? If yes, please identify local factors contributing to this trend.

Example: "Our county's prison usage increased by 12% in the past year. Contributing factors include:

- A 20% rise in methamphetamine-related arrests due to limited access to treatment options.
- Increased probation violations stemming from a reduction in probation officer staffing.
- A backlog in court processing has led to longer pretrial detention periods. To address these challenges, we are implementing a pretrial diversion program and exploring partnerships with local treatment providers to mitigate substance use issues."

Polk County has seen a 23% increase in prison months this past year, though our intakes reflect an average of only 3 more intakes per month.

Increase in prison months can be attributed to a few substantial sentences that have impacted our prison use.

Polk County's 2012-2015 baseline goal of 445 prison months was calculated at a time of financial crisis for Polk County. In 2015 a Public Safety Levy was passed by voters and an adjusted baseline was requested from CJC utilizing 2017-2018 data which reflects a baseline of 1100 months.

As of December 2024, prison usage is 846 months, 254 months below the 2017-2018 baseline. Polk County partners are continuing to send individuals to prison based on their risk to the community, victims and/or whether they can be successful in the community.

## 2. Recidivism Dashboard – [Recidivism Dashboard](#)

Has three-year incarceration recidivism increased in your county in the latest data year or since 2013? If yes, please explain local factors contributing to this trend.

Example: "Three-year incarceration recidivism increased by 8% last year. Factors include:

- Limited access to affordable housing, leading to instability for individuals post-release.
- Reductions in parole staff, resulting in decreased supervision and case management.
- A lack of funding for vocational training programs. In response, we are collaborating with local housing organizations to secure transitional housing and expanding partnerships with community colleges to offer job skills training tailored to reentry populations."

As a small county, recidivism percentages change dramatically due to the small cohort sizes and recidivist numbers, resulting in peaks/valleys in our dashboards. Our cohort's have fluctuated from a high of 82 to a low of 31.

When looking at our 3 year rates (1st half/2021), our cohort was 31 individuals; arrest rate 54.8% (17 recidivists), conviction rate 41.9% (13 recidivists), incarceration rate 22.6% (7 recidivists).

We have limited access to affordable and transitional housing, leaving instability for those in need. Additionally, we struggle with local non-profit community resources, with most referrals forwarded to services in Marion County. This poses additional transportation barriers for our indigent population as well

### 3. Racial Disparity Tool – [Racial Disparity Tool \(Sentencing\)](#)

How does your Justice Reinvestment-funded programming address racial disparities or other disparities in historically underserved communities?

Example: "The program addresses racial disparities by partnering with culturally specific organizations that serve Black and Indigenous populations. Initiatives include:

- Peer mentorship programs led by individuals from the community.
- Legal aid clinics focusing on expungement services for populations disproportionately affected by convictions.
- Community feedback sessions to ensure programming aligns with cultural and linguistic needs."

Polk County has historically reflected parity in our racial disparity dashboard. As of this application, the dashboard reflects the need for approx. 6 individuals to be diverted to achieve parity (1 Native, 2 Latinx, and 3 Black males).

As a predominantly rural county, with a prominent Tribal and Latino population, we are focused on addressing disparities through partnerships with culturally specific organizations that serve our community.

This includes:

- \* Referring individuals to culturally specific services provided by the Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde.
- \* Provide bilingual/bicultural staff to provide culturally specific services.
- \* Engage with local faith based community resources for culturally specific services, allowing for safe and equitable service engagement for our clients.

# Application: Polk County

Jodi Merritt - merritt.jodi@co.polk.or.us  
Justice Reinvestment Program 25-27

## Summary

ID: 0000000021

## Proposed Grant Program One

Completed - Mar 18 2025

## Proposed Grant Program One

### Program Name

Behavioral Health - Jail Services

Was this program a part your county's Justice Reinvestment-funded programming in 2023-2025?

[select one]

Yes

What type of program is this?

[select one]

Mental Health Treatment

Provide a summary of the program's purpose and key activities.

Example: “The Mental Health Diversion Program diverts individuals with mental health disorders away from incarceration and into treatment. Participants receive comprehensive case management, psychiatric care, and wraparound support. The program’s goal is to reduce recidivism and address untreated mental health conditions contributing to criminal behavior.”

Funding will be utilized to maintain and increase available behavioral health services provided in the jail. Funding will maintain current behavioral health services provided in jail, increase current psychiatric service hours provided, provide a case manager to provide care coordination, transitional planning, increase referrals, increase behavioral health services engagement, increase the ability to provide warm hand-offs at release, facilitating access to community resources and other supportive services which promote stabilization and community success. These services will support the decreased use of prison and support public safety by stabilizing individuals while they are incarcerated, followed by transition services and support at release. The expansion of services, as available, will focus on gaps in jail services such as implementing group(s), crisis response, increased access to psychiatric services, transition planning and reduced response time for services requests.

Which of the goals of the Justice Reinvestment Grant Program does this program meet?

*[select all that apply]*

**Responses Selected:**

Reduce prison usage while protecting public safety and holding individuals accountable

Reduce recidivism while protecting public safety and holding individuals accountable

## If it reduces prison usage, briefly describe how below.

Example: "Reduce prison usage by diverting eligible individuals into mental health treatment, the program prevents incarceration for non-violent offenses and reduces reliance on prison beds."

Utilizing mental health treatment and case management services to support individuals and prevent incarceration, reducing reliance on prison. Access to individualized behavioral health interventions, treatment referrals, and collaborative supervision services to individuals at risk of criminal behavior impacts recidivism, as identified below, and further supports this program's impact on the reduction of prison usage by providing the individuals with essential resources/services.

## If it reduces recidivism, briefly describe how below.

Example: "The program provides evidence-based mental health treatment and continuous support, reducing the likelihood of reoffending by addressing the root causes of participants' behavior."

The program reduces barriers individuals have in accessing services within a jail setting and in the community. It provides incarcerated individuals with increased staff availability and services, thus supporting the stability of the individual while incarcerated and connecting them with services directly upon release. Psychiatric services and coordinated medical care with outpatient services assist with transition planning and warm handoffs. All services are evidence based and provide continued support for the individual both in and out of jail setting. Provides service access and treatment support to further interrupt criminal behavior and reduce recidivism.

## **Target Population**

Identify the target population(s) this program serves, including underserved groups as defined in HB 3064 (2019) (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals).

## Gender Identity

*[select all that apply]*

### Responses Selected:

Men
Women
Non-binary

Race/Ethnicity (If it is a general eligibility program, select "all")

*[select all that apply]*

### Responses Selected:

All
-----

Other Historically Underserved Communities

*[select all that apply]*

### Responses Selected:

LGBTQIA+
Not listed

Please specify below:

To include: impoverished/low income communities; homeless; uninsured; chronic and severely mentally ill or with health problems; those from disadvantaged backgrounds or impacted based on different cultural/ethnic backgrounds.

Risk Level

[select all that apply]

**Responses Selected:**

High

Medium

Low

Which crime types does this program serve?

[select all that apply]

**Responses Selected:**

Driving Offenses (generally ORS chapters 811, 813)

Property Offenses (generally ORS chapters 164, 165)

Drug Offenses (generally ORS chapters 471, 475)

Other (please indicate ORS numbers)



Please indicate all ORS numbers below:

Chapters 162-167 - All justice involved individuals will be eligible for services under this program with focus on JRP specific crime categories.

Which, if any, assessments do this program use?

[select all that apply]

**Responses Selected:**

PSC

LS/CMI

WRNA

TCU CTU

Other

Please specify below:

Urgent Care Evaluations, Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale for Crisis, Comprehensive Needs Assessment, Psychiatric Evaluation, Neuropsychological Testing Battery.

Briefly describe how the above assessments are used in your program.

Example: "The PSC is used as an initial triaging tool to determine whether or not a candidate for our downward departure program will receive a more detailed assessment (WRNA or LS/CMI) later."

The PSC is the initial triaging tool for individuals on supervision; PSC scores identifying med/hi risk will result in the completion of an LS/CMI or WRNA, to include case planning. The TCU is used to determine the impact of the individual's current drug use and will drive case plan priority. Urgent Care Evaluations are used when adults in custody are in immediate crisis, Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale for Crisis and Comprehensive Needs Assessments is used by behavioral health to identify needs at intake. Psychiatric evaluations are used in jail settings for those determined in need of medication.

Has this program received a Corrections Program Checklist or the George Mason University Risk-Need-Responsivity Evaluation in the last 10 years?

No

How does your program meet the legal definition of culturally responsive services as defined in SB 1510 (2022)?

(“Culturally responsive service” means a service that is respectful of, and relevant to, the beliefs, practices, cultures and linguistic needs of diverse consumer or client populations and communities whose members identify as having particular cultural or linguistic affiliations by virtue of their place of birth, ancestry or ethnic origin, religion, preferred language or language spoken at home. A culturally responsive service has the capacity to respond to the issues of diverse communities and require knowledge and capacity at systemic, organizational, professional and individual levels of intervention.)

Provide specific examples of how your program addresses the cultural or linguistic needs of historically underserved communities. Include how staff are trained, services are tailored, and systemic or organizational efforts are made to ensure responsiveness.

Example: “Our program partners with culturally specific organizations to deliver trauma-informed peer mentorship for Indigenous participants. Staff receive annual training on culturally responsive practices, and program materials are translated into the primary languages of the populations we serve.”

Polk County has a prominent Tribal and Latino population that we have continued to focus on in identifying and eliminating barriers, while assuring cultural responsiveness.

With a large Tribal community in Polk County, Community Corrections has established a collaborative working relationship with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Our focus is to connect individuals with culturally specific services for their ongoing support and success. Corrections has established working relationships with Tribal case managers and treatment programs, working closely to assure placement and compliance with collaborative case plans.

Additionally, Community Corrections and Behavioral Health employ bilingual/bicultural staff who focus on providing

culturally specific services. Local faith based community agencies are also utilized as resources for culturally specific services, allowing for safe and equitable service engagement for our clients. Further, Corrections and PCBH provides culturally responsive training to staff to assure we are engaging each individual participant through equity and inclusiveness.

# Application: Polk County

Jodi Merritt - merritt.jodi@co.polk.or.us  
Justice Reinvestment Program 25-27

## Summary

ID: 0000000021

## Eligibility Requirements

Completed - Mar 17 2025

## Eligibility Requirements

Does the county consider and accept short-term transitional leave candidates as appropriate?

[select one]

Yes

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Do the county or its partners assist clients with Oregon Health Plan enrollment?

[select one]

Yes

# Application: Polk County

Jodi Merritt - merritt.jodi@co.polk.or.us  
Justice Reinvestment Program 25-27

## Summary

ID: 0000000021

## Planning and Implementation

Completed - Mar 18 2025

## Planning and Implementation

Describe the partnerships that will support your county's efforts to achieve Justice Reinvestment goals.

Example: "The county collaborates with local victim service providers, housing agencies, and mental health organizations to provide comprehensive support to program participants."

Polk County's LPSCC designated a JRP Sub-committee focused on the development, submission, and monitoring of the County's JRP grant programs; with updates provided to the full LPSCC committee. Members of this sub-committee include: a County Commissioner, Sheriff, Community Corrections Director, District Attorney, Behavioral Health Manager, Presiding Judge, and the County Administrator. This sub-committee met to discuss the current JRP grant program and the preliminary application for the 25-27 application.

Behavioral Health, Community Corrections and the Sheriff's Office continue to work collaboratively to identify and access resources and services for our justice-involved population.

Polk County stakeholders remain focused on reducing recidivism and prison usage, while assuring accountability and protecting public safety.

How does your county incorporate input from historically underserved communities and community partners in the design, implementation, and review of Justice Reinvestment programs?

Describe specific strategies or methods for collecting input and how this feedback influences program decisions.

Example: “We hold quarterly advisory board meetings with representatives from Black, Hispanic, and LGBTQIA+ communities to review program data and discuss areas for improvement. Feedback from these meetings informed the creation of a reentry housing program tailored to the needs of formerly incarcerated LGBTQIA+ individuals.”

Polk County has a number of projects focused on identifying barriers to our historically underserved communities. We have established collaborative relationships with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the faith based community that supports our Latino population and we continue to identify and/or troubleshoot challenges/barriers our underserved communities continue to face in accessing services and programs, i.e. transportation, day care, food services, housing, etc.

Through the JRP Capacity Building Grant, an Equity Action Plan was developed for Community Corrections, which includes ongoing survey and focus groups from underserved communities.

The Crisis Intervention (CIT) Steering Committee has completed the County's Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) that incorporates various access points for justice involved individuals into the CJS. Gaps, resources and priorities were identified.

How will the county select which community-based victim service providers will be awarded funds? Will the county run a competitive process?

You can find a list of community-based service providers on the CJC website [here](#).

[select one]

No

If the county will not run a competitive process, please explain why below (i.e., "*there is only one provider in my county*").

There are only two providers in Polk County, we disperse funding between these two agencies.

## Evaluation Plan

How will your county meet the evaluation requirement for this proposal?

Note: the application for the Evaluation Plan is scheduled for release in June.

Remit 3% of awarded funds to the CJC's statewide evaluation budget.

What is your suggested research topic for the CJC to study?

(No response)



## 2025-2027 Competitive Grant

House Bill 3078 (2017) established a competitive grant to support downward departure prison diversion programs. Funding details for this grant will be announced once the legislature has finalized appropriations. At this stage, we only need to know if your county will apply for the grant.

Note: The application for the Competitive Grant is scheduled for release in June.

Would you like to "opt-in" for the Competitive Grant?

*[select one]*

Opt-in: Opting in means you intend to apply and be considered for funding.