



Operating Budget Request

Western State Hospital Community Partnership Program

Request: The City requests \$621,000 to continue the highly successful Western State Hospital Community Partnership Program (CPP). This is the same funding level that has been allocated in the last two biennial budgets.

Background: The CPP has been in existence since 2007. This program has successfully reduced calls for police service and created a safer environment for both the hospital and surrounding neighborhoods. Despite the ongoing need and the program's consistent success, funding has not been codified and each fiscal biennium the Legislature must appropriate funds for the program's continued operation.

Since its inception, the program has resulted in a 40% reduction in calls for police services at Western State Hospital and has facilitated a stronger relationship between hospital staff, police, and the community. This, in turn, has resulted in increased collaboration and mutual feelings of trust and respect. In a 2019 Report to the Legislature, DSHS reported that, "WSH has seen the benefit of consistency in response to criminal cases, case management, and other concerns involving patients and staff on the WSH campus as a result of this partnership with the LPD."¹ The report's assessment also highlighted that "the agreement allows the [LPD] to prioritize an intentional partnership with WSH, ensuring a proactive approach to the identified concerns and needs, support[ing] our ability to accomplish our mission of transforming lives."²

The City is proud to offer these services to WSH and is pleased to hear the value DSHS places on this program.

The City also recognizes the fiscal constraints on the state operating budget, given the impacts of COVID-19. The City is prepared to continue this successful partnership and is not requesting an increase to the biennial appropriation. The City respectfully requests the continued appropriation of \$621,000 in the 2021-23 Operating Budget for this program. This is the same funding level that has been allocated in the last two biennial budgets.



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¹ [2019 Report to the Legislature on the Western State Hospital – City of Lakewood Community Policing Program](#)

² Ibid.