



Operating Budget Request

Western State Hospital Community Partnership Program

Request: Since 2007 the City has operated a highly effective Community Partnership Program at Western State Hospital. Since 2017, the state operating budget has included \$621,000 to fund the program. The City requests that the state adjust this amount for inflation to ensure the ongoing success of the program.

Background: This longstanding partnership 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 stated 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

In 2021, impacts from the nationwide "Great Resignation" required the Lakewood Police Department (LPD) to temporarily pause the program. LPD was able to quickly hire and train officers and reinstate the services at WSH. This demonstrates the City's commitment to this program and its long-term success. To keep pace with rising costs, the City respectfully requests that the 2023-25 Operating Budget include sufficient funding for the CPP at WSH.



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

² Ibid.