

Western State Hospital Community Partnership Program

Request: Since 2007 the City has operated the highly effective Community Partnership Program at Western State Hospital. The 2023-25 Operating Budget allocated \$621,000 to the program. There has been no increase to this amount since 2017 but the cost to operate the program continues to rise. **The City respectfully requests that the 2025-27 operating budget include a 3% inflationary adjustment to the appropriation for this program. This equates to an \$19,000 increase or a total of \$640,000 over the course of the biennium.**

Background: Beginning in 2007, 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.

The program has been so successful that it was replicated by the City of Medical Lake at Eastern State Hospital in 2023. Now staff and patients at both hospitals and in both communities benefit from this best practice.

In fiscal year 2024 there were quantifiable benefits to the Western State Hospital patients, staff and the surrounding community. From July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 LPD attended **34 meetings** to coordinate with hospital staff. In that same time period LDP was assigned and worked **174 cases** which included Homicide, Death Investigation, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Arson, Rape, Other Sex Crimes, Fraud, Forgery, Theft, Harassment, Vandalism, Escape, Patient Abuse, and Missing Person (Unauthorized Leave).

This collaborative partnership allowed LPD to clear 148 cases through a variety of dispositions including resolution, arrest/prosecution, victims declining to prosecute, Prosecution declining to prosecute, cases dismissed by the Court, being unfounded and referrals to other agencies. The vast majority of these criminal cases are resolved without removing the patient from the hospital, thereby reducing the risk of escape and keeping the patient within their treatment regimen.

