

# OREGON SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROJECT BRIEF **Fiscal Assessment of Oregon System of Care**

June 2023 – September 2023, Isaiah Henry Oregon Summer Fellow

## **PROJECT GOAL**

The project's goal was to conduct a fiscal assessment of the System of Care in Oregon, to assess the existing financial resources, including funding from federal, state, and local sources that fund agencies and programs apart of the System of Care. The System of Care is a spectrum of community-based services and supports organizations in a coordinated network to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families.

## **STRATEGY**

To accomplish this task I used a two-pronged approach to gain insight into the System of Care financials. To better understand the big-picture shifts in funding I compared legislatively approved/adopted budgets throughout a period(2019-2023). In the second part of the analysis, I looked at the service usage costs of the specific System of Care partner agencies to better understand the trends in their cost. The combination of macro-level biennial budgets and micro-level service usage cost data offers a comprehensive view of Oregon's System of Care's financial landscape. Macro data provides an overview of overall financial health and funding priorities, while micro data delves into the efficiency and real-world impact of individual services.

## **CHALLENGES**

There were several challenges I faced during the duration of my fellowship. The primary challenge was the limited 10-week duration of the fellowship, which restricted the depth and breadth of the fiscal analysis. The System of Care is very complex, with many different areas of funding making 10 weeks significantly limiting in fully capturing these funding streams. The absence of comprehensive fiscal data and the lack of a centralized data system making it difficult to gather all necessary information along with inconsistent metrics across different agencies further complicated the analysis.

## **RESULTS**

At the end of my fellowship, I completed a comprehensive report including a fiscal assessment

The final report identifies:

- Trends in Oregon State budgets between 2019-2023.
- Trends in service usage costs in Oregon Youth Authority, Oregon Child Welfare, and Oregon Department of Disabilities between 2019-2023.
- Analysis of funding sources and the trends in those funding sources for System of Care state agencies
- Recommendations for the improvement of the System of Care Fiscal analysis and next steps.