



Local Government Resolution Initiative Toolkit: The what, why, and how you can help

What are we doing?

During 2019, Oregon Recovers has been organizing volunteers to work with their local city councils and county commissions to pass a resolution/proclamation on addiction. The primary objectives of the resolutions are for local governments to: 1) declare addiction to be a public health crisis in their community, and 2) direct the State Legislature to address the addiction crisis.

Why are we doing it?

Oregon is in the throes of an unprecedented addiction crisis. 400,000 people in the state are afflicted and 2,100 people die each year from alcohol and drug use. This is primarily due to Oregon ranking 50th in access to treatment and recovery services. Oregon policymakers have historically not made addiction and recovery a priority. While city councils and county commissions do not make state policy, they can help to raise awareness of addiction and create a sense of urgency. When local governments issue a public resolution or proclamation, there is more pressure at that state level of government to develop a comprehensive, statewide addiction recovery plan and provide additional funding.

Equally important, the resolutions and proclamations that have passed already have generated local media coverage increasing public awareness of addiction as a public health crisis.

[News coverage from the Bend City Council resolution:](#)

"Oregon typically ranks in the top 10 in the country, as far as alcohol and drug dependency, but we are 50th in terms of actually having access to mental health and treatment services. That needs to change," City Councilor Bruce Abernethy said Thursday.

[News coverage from the Klamath County Commission resolution:](#)

The Board of County Commissioners, the Klamath District Attorney's office and other leaders recognize the need for financial support from the State and Federal government to enable them to adequately address the issue and protect and preserve the health of Klamath County citizens.

How can you get involved?

You can use this toolkit to organize other recovery community volunteers to work with your city council and county commission to create and pass a resolution or proclamation. The toolkit will guide you through the process of meeting with local policymakers, testifying at a public hearing, and providing materials to your council or commission for their resolution.

Got questions? Call Mike Marshall, the Director of Oregon Recovers at 503-828-7193.

Resolution/Proclamation Example – City of Medford

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, addiction is a chronic disease, often requiring multiple episodes of care and a lifetime of support; and

WHEREAS, addiction is a treatable condition, as exemplified by millions of people who identify as being in recovery; and

WHEREAS, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Oregon has the fourth highest addiction rate in the country; and

WHEREAS, according to EcoNorthwest analysis, untreated addiction costs Oregon taxpayers \$5.9 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, in Oregon, five people die each day in alcohol-related deaths; one to two people die each day from drug-overdoses; and more than 2100 people die annually from untreated addiction; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of inmates in Oregon's prison system suffer from untreated addiction;

NOW THEREFORE I Gary H. Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Medford, do hereby declare that the City of Medford considers addiction to be a public health crisis and urges Oregon's local state and federal elected leaders to take steps to implement a new recovery-oriented continuum of care to reduce Oregon's untreated addiction rate and increase the state's recovery rate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,
I hereunto set my hand this
5th day of September, 2019.



Gary H. Wheeler
Mayor of Medford