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February 19, 2025

To: I/DD community members, Tribal partners and ODDS staff
From: Dana Hittle, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)
Subject: Project begins to reimagine SACU

Late last year, [we shared our plan](#) to look closer at the mission and structure of the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU). This review is important. It will help us make sure people get the right services to live the lives they want.

SACU is meant to be a short-term program that helps individuals with I/DD while they're in crisis. Once they're out of crisis, SACU is supposed to help them go back to their home communities. But, over time, many people have stayed at SACU long-term. Longer stays caused costs to go up. Individuals need more support to return home safely and successfully.

Governor Kotek's 2025-27 Recommended Budget asked the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to create a new plan for SACU. The new plan will focus on short-term care to help people return to their communities. It will also seek ways to keep costs stable.

A project to redesign SACU is starting now. ODHS hired [Human Services Group \(HSG\)](#) to work with the I/DD community. Together, all of us will assess the program and recommend a new plan. The Governor wants the plan to:

- Refocus SACU into a short-term program for stabilization.
- Look at how many homes SACU needs for this new approach.
- Improve the program to offer better, more personalized services to help people in crisis.
- Ensure services support individuals' return to their community when they're ready.

HSG will talk to SACU residents, staff, families, advocates, unions, lawmakers, and community partners to learn from their experiences. They'll get feedback from former SACU residents who now live in their home communities. These interviews and focus groups will be in March.

If you'd like to join a focus group or interview, please contact ODDS. You can call 503-945-5811 or send an email to dd.directorsoffice@odhsoha.oregon.gov. We accept all relay calls.

We'll send the proposed plan to the Governor and the Oregon State Legislature in mid-April. They will review the plan. They'll decide what changes to make to SACU. The earliest any changes could happen is July 2026. We will have more than a year to work together to get ready for any changes. Learn more in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

We hope you'll be a part of this important project. ODDS is committed to keeping SACU residents healthy, safe, happy and supported as we work together to create a better future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Hittle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dana Hittle

Interim Director

[Office of Developmental Disabilities Services](#)

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