



Minding the Gap

Written by the HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and STD programs of Oregon Health Authority
for correctional facilities in Oregon

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Community Services for People Living with HIV

Every year, approximately 200 people living with HIV (PLWH) pass through a correctional facility in Oregon. While relatively small in number, the cost of health care for these individuals may present challenges to jail healthcare budgets. Fortunately, a number of community-based supports are available to potentially reduce the cost of care for a PLWH in your facility, and help the person once released. These supports include referral to Oregon's HIV case management programs for care coordination and the CAREAssist Program for assistance in accessing medications. Ensuring effective referral to these supports also reduces the risk of recidivism. By ensuring timely treatment and referral for PLWH, you also help to achieve the mission of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS). The Department of Justice is one of several federal agencies charged with implementation of the NHAS and is calling for increased collaboration and coordination between correctional facilities and HIV service providers.

CAREAssist (Oregon's AIDS Drugs Assistance Program)

The mission of CAREAssist is to improve the health of HIV+ Oregonians by paying for insurance premiums, medications, and medical services. CAREAssist currently serves persons with HIV with income up to 500% of the Federal Poverty Level. Because CAREAssist is federally funded, program restrictions are in place for persons who are incarcerated. However, CAREAssist may be able to provide support for medications for persons who are being held in a city or county correctional facility. If a person in your facility declares that they are HIV + and on medications, contact the CAREAssist program for additional information.

HIV Case Management

HIV Case Management is available throughout the entire state of Oregon, and can be a valuable resource for ensuring support is available when a person is released. Case management providers vary based on county, but may be found at local health departments or non-profit organizations such as HIV Alliance or Cascade AIDS Project (CAP). Prior to release, Case Managers can provide assistance with benefits applications, information, risk reduction counseling, and referral to medical care. Upon release, a number of medical and supportive services are available such as adherence support, housing, transportation assistance, and behavioral health care. To find an HIV case manager in any county in the state, visit healthoregon.org/hiv.

The United States will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.
—National HIV/AIDS Strategy Vision

Housing Support for People Living with HIV

Stable housing is a critical component of reducing the risk of recidivism. The Oregon Health Authority, in partnership with Cascade AIDS Project, provides permanent supportive housing for PLWH who have a history of incarceration. If someone in your custody is HIV+, and in need of housing upon release, either in the short-term or long-term, please contact the Oregon Health Authority. We will refer you to the nearest Housing Coordinator in your area to start the referral process.

Support for you --- The AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC)

Providing care for someone with HIV in your facility can be overwhelming. Fortunately, The Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center (NW AETC) offers HIV treatment education, clinical consultation, capacity building, and technical assistance to health care professionals, like yourself, throughout Oregon. A number of in person, web-based and phone supports are available, such as the annual HIV/AIDS Care in Corrections conference, Project ECHO, or the WarmLine which provides advice on the treatment of HIV, from testing to managing advanced disease.

Resources

CAREAssist, HIV Case Management or Housing

Healthoregon.org/hiv

971-673-0144

AIDS Education & Training Center

depts.washington.edu/nwaetc/

WarmLine

Free, phone based clinical consultation is available Aids.gov

Monday – Friday, 9am – 8pm EST

800-933-3413.

nccc.ucsf.edu

Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) 's CARELINK Program

CAP serves persons in Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Yamhill, Columbia and Clark counties. CARELink provides reentry support for persons leaving a correctional facility.

(503) 278-3832

Cascadeaids.org

National HIV/AIDS Strategy

Contact us!

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