



**SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE
HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2024

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Benton County Delegation Secures Major Investments to Expand Affordable Housing and Drug Treatment

Lawmakers deliver more than \$7.5 million in new funding to address urgent local needs

Benton County, OR - Today, the Governor signed the Emergency Housing Stability and Production Package ([Senate Bill 1530](#), [Senate Bill 1537](#)) into law. Between this package and other legislation signed recently, including the Oregon Drug Intervention Plan ([House Bill 4002](#), [House Bill 5204](#)), lawmakers representing Benton County celebrated new funding to address urgent local needs. These investments will go towards increasing housing units, expanding specialty treatment courts, and behavioral health for families and children.

“For years, I’ve heard the heartbreaking stories of people in Benton County struggling with addiction and the cycle of poverty and homelessness. These individuals and their families know firsthand the devastating losses that result when treatment and housing cannot be found,” said **Senator Sara Gelsler Blouin (D-Corvallis)**. “Urgently building more homes, better treatment and a bridge between the criminal justice system and mental health and addiction services in Benton County will mean more of our neighbors can get the help they need to be safe, healthy and to preserve their families.”

Major investments secured by lawmakers include:

- \$2.5 million to Benton County for new housing units, supporting the county’s response to the housing and homelessness crisis
- \$5 million to Benton County Health Department Behavioral Health Division to relocate Children and Family Services

Benton County will also benefit from statewide investments aimed at improving connections between substance use disorder services and the criminal justice system so more Oregonians get the help they deserve.

- Grants to assist counties with setting up deflection programs that will connect Oregonians dealing with addiction to treatment services and prevent them from becoming involved in the criminal justice system (\$30 million) – *HB 5204*
- More staff and coordination for drug courts to divert those already involved in the justice system to treatment (\$9.7 million) – *HB 5204*

“Treatment Courts acknowledge the intersection of mental health, substance abuse, and the criminal justice system,” said **Representative Dan Rayfield (D - Corvallis)**. “We have the evidence to show that treatment courts are an essential tool to support struggling Oregonians on their path to a better life. Bolstering Benton County’s treatment courts was crucial to the safety and health of our community.”

These new investments are part of the legislature’s statewide commitment to taking immediate action on the drug crisis, treating Oregonians in mental health crises, and sheltering the Oregonians living on our streets. The [Senate](#) and [House](#) Democratic caucuses prioritized these issues in their 2024 session agendas.

Senator Gelser Blouin (D - Corvallis), Representative Dan Rayfield (D - Corvallis), and Representative David Gomberg (D - Monroe) represent Benton County in the Oregon Legislature and worked to secure this funding for the community.

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