

The Governor’s Recommended Budget and the Stabilization and Crisis Unit — Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB)?

The GRB is Governor Tina Kotek’s proposal for the state’s budget. It is not a final budget. The Governor released the GRB on Dec. 3, 2024.

The Oregon Legislature uses the GRB to start their budget planning. They will decide what the state’s budget will be. This is called the Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB). The next LAB will fund the Oregon Department of Human Services from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Did the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB) cut the Stabilization and Crisis Unit?

The GRB did not propose to close the Stabilization and Crisis Unit. The GRB included partial cuts to the program’s budget.

The Governor does not want to close the program. She is asking the Legislature, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community to look at the program’s mission and services. She wants us to find ways to make the

program better. She wants us to make sure individuals in the program get the best services and supports to meet their needs.

ODHS staff hear how scary this news is to some individuals and families. The possibility of change can be hard. We will support you through this. Our mission is still the safety, health and well-being of all at the Stabilization and Crisis Unit.

Is the budget decided? Is the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) final?

The budget is not decided. The Legislature makes the final budget decisions. The GRB made recommendations to start the budget process.

What does the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) mean to individual's services now? Is the Stabilization and Crisis Unit closing now?

No. The program is not closing. Services are not changing now.

We've heard rumors the program is closing all homes now. This is not true.

Here are the facts:

- **Nothing is changing now. We will know more next year after the Legislature's session.**
- **The program is still dedicated to keeping you or your loved one healthy, safe, happy and supported.**
- **You or your loved one will keep getting the same services.**

What does the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) mean for the future of the Stabilization and Crisis Unit?

The GRB **does not** cut services and supports for individuals. The GRB asks the Legislature, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), and the state's intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community to assess the program. This means discussing the program's mission and structure. The GRB asks us to make a plan that:

- Refocuses the program into a short-term stabilization unit.
- Figures out the number of homes to do this.
- Strengthens the program to provide improved, person-centered services to help individuals live well in their own communities.

Some questions to start these talks are:

- How can we best support individuals in crisis?
- How can we best support them to return to their communities when they aren't in crisis anymore?
- How can we best support them once they are living back in their communities?
- How can we better empower staff to do the above?
- How can we help providers to offer crisis supports in home- and community-based settings?
- How can we help providers to support individuals when they are living back in their communities?
- How can we provide crisis services to individuals in communities across the state? Right now, these supports are only available from Portland to Eugene.

The GRB is the start of this conversation.

What are the next steps in the budget process? How will the process address the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)?

In January, the Oregon Legislature meets for the “Long Session.” This happens every two years. The Legislature debates the Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB). The session lasts until June. At that time, the Legislature passes the budget for the next two years.

This process will include conversations about the Stabilization and Crisis Unit’s mission, services and budget. Many people will be part of these talks. These people include individuals at SACU, their guardians and families, self-advocates, advocacy organizations, SACU staff, labor unions, staff and leaders at the Oregon Department of Human Services, our partners, and the I/DD community.

What will the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) do next?

We will develop a proposal that refocuses the Stabilization and Crisis Unit into a short-term program that helps individuals return to their communities.

Our actions will include:

- Creating a planning team. This team will include self-advocates, our employees, labor unions, legislative leaders and community partners.
- Working with the above groups to find solutions and create a timeline as the budget becomes clearer.

- Communicating with all who live and work at SACU, guardians, families, labor unions, legislators, and the I/DD community about this process.

When would budget cuts start?

The budget is not decided. We don't know what the Legislature will do. If the Legislature accepts the proposed budget cuts, they will start in July 2026. If this happens, we have time to work together and get ready.

Which Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) homes are closing now? Did the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) cause these homes to close?

Two SACU homes are currently vacant. These homes will close on Jan. 31, 2025. We have no other planned closures. The GRB did not affect these closures. We decided to close these homes before the GRB came out.

One of the homes is the Eliot 2 home in Portland. The residents from that home already moved next door into the Eliot 1 home. There is enough room in Eliot 1 for all five individuals from the two homes. We are combining the two homes permanently. We are doing this because staff have been working at both homes during the same shifts. Having everyone in one home will allow staff to better serve individuals and keep them safe.

The other home is Weirich House in Lebanon. This building needs serious repairs. The only individual living there already moved into a nearby SACU home. We decided to close Weirich permanently, because there isn't a

need for that home anymore. There are other SACU homes in the area where individuals can get services.

Who do I contact for more information or help?

You can talk to your services coordinator.

You can also send your questions to ODDS at odds.questions@odhsoha.oregon.gov. One of our staff will get back to you. We will also post information and resources, like this FAQ, [on the SACU web page](#).

You can get this document for free in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Oregon ODDS at 503-945-5811 or dd.directorsoffice@odhsoha.oregon.gov. We accept calls from all forms of relay service for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, blind or have low vision. For more information about relay service providers visit <https://www.oregonrelay.com> or <https://www.fcc.gov/general/internet-based-trs-providers>.