



Oakridge Municipal Court Program Policy Report

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OAKRIDGE**

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PPPM 410: REAL WORLD LANE COUNTY | SCHOOL OF PLANNING, PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT



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This report represents original student work and recommendations prepared by students in the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program for the City of Oakridge. Text and images contained in this report may not be used without permission from the University of Oregon.

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About SCI

The Sustainable Cities Institute (SCI) is an applied think tank focusing on sustainability and cities through applied research, teaching, and community partnerships. We work across disciplines that match the complexity of cities to address sustainability challenges, from regional planning to building design and from enhancing engagement of diverse communities to understanding the impacts on municipal budgets from disruptive technologies and many issues in between.

SCI focuses on sustainability-based research and teaching opportunities through two primary efforts:

1. Our Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP), a massively scaled university-community partnership program that matches the resources of the University with one Oregon community each year to help advance that community's sustainability goals; and

2. Our Urbanism Next Center, which focuses on how autonomous vehicles, e-commerce, and the sharing economy will impact the form and function of cities.

In all cases, we share our expertise and experiences with scholars, policymakers, community leaders, and project partners. We further extend our impact via an annual Expert-in-Residence Program, SCI China visiting scholars program, study abroad course on redesigning cities for people on bicycle, and through our co-leadership of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N), which is transferring SCYP to universities and communities across the globe. Our work connects student passion, faculty experience, and community needs to produce innovative, tangible solutions for the creation of a sustainable society.

About SCYP

The Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) is a yearlong partnership between SCI and a partner in Oregon, in which students and faculty in courses from across the university collaborate with a public entity on sustainability and livability projects. SCYP faculty and students work in collaboration with staff from the partner agency through a variety of studio projects and service-learning courses to provide students with real-world projects to investigate. Students bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches

to difficult, persistent problems. SCYP's primary value derives from collaborations that result in on-the-ground impact and expanded conversations for a community ready to transition to a more sustainable and livable future.

Community partnerships are possible in part due to support from U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, as well as former Congressman Peter DeFazio, who secured federal funding for SCYP through Congressionally Directed Spending.

About City of Oakridge

The City of Oakridge, Oregon, is a vibrant community nestled in the foothills of the Western Cascade Mountains, with a population of approximately 3,500 residents within city limits (nearly 5,000 when including nearby Westfir and surrounding areas). Surrounded by the extensive Willamette National Forest, the city provides ample opportunities for activities such as hiking and mountain biking, with nearly 500 miles of trails and five rivers in its vicinity. Oakridge's elevation (1,200-1,700 ft.) results in a favorable climate, characterized by over 300 sunny days annually, while avoiding the fog of the valley and the heavy snowfalls of higher elevations.



Governed by a council-manager system since 1972, Oakridge residents benefit from a robust and supportive municipal administration. The City offers a comprehensive range of services, including street maintenance, water, wastewater, and park utilities, as well as police, fire, and emergency

medical services. Additional municipal services include library access, economic development, planning and zoning, and general administrative support. Funding for city operations is derived from property taxes, franchise fees, and other revenue sources, with special projects financed through grants and loans.

In the past decade, Oakridge has secured nearly \$11 million in grants and loans for community projects and maintains an annual budget of approximately \$10 million.

The citizens of Oakridge cherish their history and cultural heritage, celebrating it through a variety of events and activities throughout the year. The long-standing Tree Planting Festival pays homage to Oakridge's timber town roots, while the Concerts in the Park series offers free performances at the Banner Bank Amphitheater in Greenwaters Park. Additionally, Oakridge features four art galleries, three nearby hot springs, and is conveniently located just 25 miles from Willamette Pass Ski Resort. The Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, approximately 35 miles away, further enriches the community's cultural

offerings with its vibrant arts scene, including music, theater, and access to the University of Oregon.

The City of Oakridge is committed to fostering a safe, livable, and sustainable environment for its residents while promoting economic development and community engagement. As part of its ongoing planning initiatives, Oakridge is exploring various strategies to enhance its sustainability and growth, ensuring that the community continues to thrive for generations to come. The partnership between the Sustainable City Year Program and the City of Oakridge is supported by local stakeholders, enabling University of Oregon students and faculty to collaborate on projects and provide recommendations to address city-identified challenges and opportunities.

Course Participants

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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Claire Fritock, Planning, Public Policy and Management

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Course Description

PPPM 410: REAL WORLD LANE COUNTY

Real World Lane County (PPPM 410) is an applied learning course centered on helping local government and nonprofit clients with smaller projects. The team-based, project-based course give students hands-on experience with the work they are likely to take on when they graduate.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Oakridge Municipal Court staff with the necessary information to administer the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program and maintain it over time. This report includes steps, guidelines, and forms that the Court staff could use to administer the program in partnership with agencies and work with defendants during their service. The program steps are as follows:

- The judge will present defendants with the option to complete volunteer work for either a nonprofit or public agency as an alternative to paying a fine.
- The judge will provide the defendant with an agreement form to be eligible for the Community Service Program and a timesheet to track their volunteer hours.
- The defendant will be presented with a list of currently eligible partners with the partner's preferred contact information.
- Organizations will supervise defendants during community service and sign off on the timesheet brought by the defendant.
- The defendant will report back to the court and deliver the timesheet with their supervisor's signature once they have completed their hours.

Introduction

The City of Oakridge operates a Municipal Court, which addresses Oakridge Municipal Code violations, claims, disputes, and low-level misdemeanor crimes. The Municipal Court oversees many defendants (especially unhoused individuals) who cannot afford to pay their court-imposed fines when they are found guilty, leaving no course of action for justice to be implemented. The Court is left with no way of collecting the debt owed or an alternative way of paying the fines.

In the past, the City of Oakridge operated a Community Service Program that provided alternative sanctions for defendants to perform community service rather than fines. The defendant was required to complete 10-20 hours of community service depending on their violations and had to complete assigned hours within a couple months. The previous program was structured to facilitate community engagement and rehabilitation while addressing various violations. The program ended due to a lack of capacity from Oakridge staff, leaving defendants with no alternative to a fine. (See Appendix B: II)

In 2022, Measure 112 passed, which repealed language from the state constitution that allows the use of slavery and involuntary servitude. There were concerns that the new language

around involuntary servitude would affect the community service program. This proposed a program complies with Measure 112.

METHODS

Oakridge partnered with the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) and the Real World: Lane County class to develop a community service program. Students collaborated with Oakridge staff to develop the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program. Students researched legal statutes and conducted interviews with nonprofits and city governments to develop the program. The interviews with nonprofit agencies helped to gauge program interest and defendant service restrictions. Students also compared active Community Service Programs in Lane County, Roseburg, and Coburg.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The following section includes related guidelines, forms, and applications that Oakridge staff could administer to defendants and agencies including:

- Sentencing Guidelines
- Community Service Consent and Agreement
- Community Service Agreement
- Community Service Application

PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS

The Program Partnerships section explains how the Oakridge Municipal Court will work with nonprofits, volunteer

organizations, and agencies. This includes the Partner Interest Form for organizations to fill out their information. This section also includes information on how to use and maintain a list of partners that defendants will have the option to work with.

PROGRAM MAINTENANCE

The Program Maintenance section includes the recommended steps for Oakridge Municipal staff to perform to maintain the program to a high degree in the future.

Community Service Program Administration

This section covers the administration of the Oakridge Municipal Courts Community Service Program. The Oakridge Municipal Court judge and Oakridge staff will manage the program, and the Oakridge Court Clerk will be the primary point of contact with partnered organizations and defendants.

Oregon law specifies limits on sentencing length, which are detailed in the Sentencing Guidelines below. After sentencing, the Municipal Court will give the Participant Agreement Form, Partner List, and Community Service Timesheet to the defendant. More detailed steps for the defendant are listed below:



FIG. 1
Program steps for defendant

SENTENCING GUIDELINES

Oregon law specifies limits on sentencing length based on the type of offense. Since the Oakridge Municipal Court only deals with violations, the maximum number of hours a defendant can serve is 48 hours (ORS 137.129). Violations tend to have community service hours between 20 to 40 hours, with three to six months to complete service; however, this can vary depending on the severity, defendant's circumstances, and judge's discretion. Any crimes or misdemeanors that require more time for service will be referred to a larger judicial court.

PARTICIPANT APPLICATION & AGREEMENT FORM

The Participant Application & Agreement is a form that the judge will give to the defendant if they choose to complete the program in lieu of a fine. The agreement lists terms and conditions for the defendant including required hours for service, date of referral, contact information, and rules for the program. This form will be signed before the defendant leaves the court, confirming their decision to participate in the program. (See Appendix A: I)

CHOOSING PROGRAM PARTNER

The Oakridge Municipal Court will present the defendant with a list of current partners who have completed the Agency Agreement and are eligible to accept volunteers. Partners include nonprofits, volunteer organizations, and local agencies. The list details criminal charges that preclude working with a partner and the main method of contact to apply as a volunteer with the partnered organization. Defendants are responsible for initiating communication with the partner they wish to volunteer with. The defendant must go through the partnered organizations' typical application process and confirm again that they meet application requirements.

If no organizations on the list meet the defendant's needs, the defendant is responsible for reaching out to other organizations to fulfill their service hours. If the defendant finds a suitable organization to work with that's not on the Partner List, the defendant must get permission to work with the organization from the Oakridge Court Clerk. The Court Clerk must give the organization the Agency Agreement. If the organization is willing to work with other defendants, the Court Clerk may add them to the Partner List. Defendants may not work with for-profit organizations. Defendants will have the option to work with multiple partners.

COMPLETING VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Once the defendant secures a volunteer position with an organization, the defendant will receive a timesheet given to them by the Court to record their volunteer hours. The timesheet includes date of referral, date for hour completion, space to document hours completed, and representative signature. The defendant

is responsible for accurately documenting their hours completed. A supervisor from the chosen organization will sign off on the timesheet to verify the completion of hours of service. Once the defendant's community service hours are completed, a final signature will be required by the partner's representative, marking the end of the volunteers' hours with them. The defendant must return the Community Service Timesheet to the court by email or in person by the deadline set during sentencing. (See Appendix A: IV)

GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVATION

Defendants will work with a partner to complete their community service hours, and the partner will choose the method of observation at their discretion. An employee or volunteer will oversee the defendant throughout the duration of their community service and will delegate tasks. To verify the hours completed, the designated individuals overseeing the defendant must sign off on the Community Service Hours Timesheet.

NON-COMPLETION OF HOURS

In some cases, a defendant may not be able to find a suitable organization to work with or organizations may decline the defendant for reasons outside of the defendant's control, such as criminal history or capacity issues. If the defendant has made a good faith effort to attempt to complete their hours, the judge may use their discretion to waive the hours assigned and fine. If the defendant does not make a good faith effort to complete their community service hours, the original fine is imposed. If the defendant can volunteer with a suitable organization that is not on the given list of partners, they can consult with the Oakridge Court Clerk to complete the community service hours with the chosen organization.

Program Partnerships

This section covers the procedure for creating and maintaining a list of partners willing to work with defendants from the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program. The Oakridge Court Clerk will communicate with partners and maintain the list of organizations.

PARTNER INTEREST FORM

To establish organization partnerships, the Real World team created an interest form to collect information about those interested in participating in the program. The form asks organizations to:

- Describe the mission of their organization
- Identify their organization type (501(c)3, volunteer group, etc.)
- Name the point of contact for the court
- List ongoing volunteer positions/tasks/opportunities they can provide to participants
- List/Describe any restrictions that would disqualify an individual from volunteering with their organization

The Real World team used the information collected on the form to compile a list of program partners for individuals seeking volunteer opportunities to complete community service hours. The form will be available on the City of Oakridge website for additional organizations to fill out and participate in the program. (See Appendix A: II)

The Oakridge Court Clerk will be responsible for reaching out to potentially interested organizations quarterly via email to send them the Partner Interest Form.

PARTNER LIST

The list of partners will be available on the City of Oakridge website and should be continually updated by the Oakridge Municipal Court Clerk as participation status changes and more organizations complete the form.

Once organizations are on the list of participating partners, they can expect individuals to reach out about completing volunteer hours. The Oakridge Municipal Court Clerk will contact program partners quarterly (every three months) for updates on volunteer opportunities and contact information.

AGENCY AGREEMENT

Before program partners can host defendants to complete volunteer service hours, the Oakridge Municipal Court will ask them to sign an Agency Agreement form and return it to the court. The agreement covers confidentiality, discrimination, termination of defendants, and liability. The purpose of the form is to ensure that prior to program partnership, the court and partner organizations

are in alignment with expectations and responsibilities. The Agency Agreement will ensure all program participants are protected and have meaningful experiences while completing hours with chosen agencies. After receiving and reviewing the completed initial Partner Interest Form, the court will send the Agency Agreement form for all initial partners to complete. (See Appendix A: III)

Program Maintenance

Oakridge City staff should conduct several follow-up steps each year to maintain the functionality of the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program.

PROGRAM CHECK-IN

Key Oakridge Municipal Court staff should meet quarterly to debrief on how the Community Service Program is working and consider any adjustments moving forward. Key staff may include the Oakridge Municipal Court judge, the Oakridge Court Clerk, and the Oakridge City Administrator.

Oakridge City Staff should consider updating the following documents if necessary:

- Policy Report
- Community Service Agreement
- Agency Agreement
- Partner Interest Form
- Community Service Pamphlet
- Community Service Timesheet

PARTNER MANAGEMENT

The Oakridge Court Clerk is responsible for managing community service program partnerships. The following actions should be taken quarterly (every three months):

- Reach out to partner organizations to verify contact information and updates on community service opportunities
- Update the list of partnered organizations and the website upon receiving updated information
- Reach out to potentially interested organizations with information about the program to add to the Partner List and ensure stability of the program
- Remove partners from the list who want to discontinue their involvement in the program

References

Legislature, OR. "ORS 137.128 – Community Service as Part of Sentence." ORS 137.128 – Community Service as Part of Sentence, oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_137.128. Accessed 6 Feb. 2025.

Legislature, OR. "ORS 137.129 – Length of Community Service Sentence." ORS 137.129 – Length of Community Service Sentence, oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_137.129. Accessed 6 Feb. 2025.

Appendix A:

Forms

Appendix A: Participant Agreement Form



**City of Oakridge
Municipal Court**
48318 E 1st Street - PO
Box 1410 Oakridge,
Oregon 97463
www.ci.oakridge.or.us

Community Service Program Participant Agreement

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's DOB: _____

Participant's Mailing Address: _____

Participant's Phone Number: _____

Limitations: _____

Official Use Only Below:

Case Number: _____

Number of Hours Assigned: _____

Fee: _____

Program Start Date (today's date): _____

Program Completion/Due Date: _____

Notes: _____

To participate in the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program, I hereby agree to abide by the following program rules:

1. Any questions about the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program requirements must be made to the Court Clerk via phone at 541-782-2258 or via email at municipalcourt@ci.oakridge.or.us
2. Any of the following *may* result in dismissal from the Community Service Program:
 1. Failure to complete the number of hours by the deadline set by the Court.
 2. Poor or inappropriate performance, attendance, or behavior as determined by the participating Agency.
 3. Engaging in criminal activity while performing community service.
 4. Failure to follow Court Orders, Community Service Program rules & policies, or participating Agency rules & policies.
 5. For any other reason as determined by the Oakridge Municipal Court judge.
3. Participants must immediately inform the Court of any changes to their phone number or address.
4. Participants must sign a City of Oakridge Volunteer Waiver Form.
5. Participants must sign any waivers or forms required by the participating Agency.
6. If participants are injured while performing community service, they must report it to the participating Agency *and* the Oakridge Municipal Court as soon as possible.
7. It is the program participant's responsibility to make sure the participating Agency reports the participant's completed hours (timesheets) in a timely manner.
8. After participants receive their final timesheet, they must return it to the Municipal Court Clerk *before* the completion due date at Oakridge City Hall or via email to municipalcourt@ci.oakridge.or.us to successfully fulfill the program requirements.

By my signature below, I signify that I agree to follow the rules & policies of the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program *and* the rules & policies of the Agency I will be working with.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Appendix All: Participant Interest Form



**City of Oakridge
Municipal Court**
48318 E 1st Street - PO
Box 1410 Oakridge,
Oregon 97463
www.ci.oakridge.or.us
Partner Interest Form

The City of Oakridge operates a Municipal Court, which addresses Oakridge Municipal Code violations and low-level misdemeanor crimes. However, many defendants simply can't afford to pay their court-imposed fines when they are found guilty. If they do not have any resources that the City's collections agency could collect the fines from (such as garnishing wages or liens on property), the Court and the City are effectively powerless to be able to collect the debt. This leads to a lack of accountability and a sense of injustice in the community.

To address these concerns, the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program allows defendants who are unable to pay their fines to be able to do volunteer work in the community instead. Interested organizations would supervise participants in the program, track their hours, and then have the defendant report back to the Court when the hours have been completed. If you are interested in possibly participating in the new Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service Program, please fill out this form.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Organization: _____

Organization Type (501c3, volunteer group, etc.): _____

Organization Website: _____

Charges your agency will not accept (check all that apply):

- Assault Charges
- Drug Charges
- Theft Charges
- Sex Charges

Who would be the point of contact who would supervise the program participant? Please provide a brief description of your organization (what it does, who it serves, etc.):

What types of regular ongoing volunteer tasks/positions/opportunities do you have?

What is the maximum number of volunteers your organization could supervise at one time?

What is the maximum number of volunteer service hours per month volunteers could work?

Does your organization have any special events or one-time volunteer opportunities? (Please include dates and approximate time commitments for each).

Does your organization have any required applications or background check forms for volunteers? If so, please describe them below and attach any specific forms used.

Do you have any restrictions that would disqualify someone from volunteering?

Do you have any questions or additional information you would like to provide?

Appendix AIII: Community Service Program Agency Agreement



**City of Oakridge
Municipal Court**
48318 E 1st Street - PO
Box 1410 Oakridge,
Oregon 97463
www.ci.oakridge.or.us

Community Service Agency Agreement

I understand that to participate as a Community Service Agency, our staff will agree to the following terms:

Confidentiality – The status of the offender as a community service client must be kept private between the offender and the contact person(s). Information provided to the agency about the offender's Oakridge Municipal Court case must be kept confidential.

Non-discrimination – The agency agrees to maintain an environment free of discrimination, wherein participating offenders are not subjected to offensive or discriminatory behavior and/or comments.

Progress Reports – The agency agrees to respond in a timely manner to requests for progress report updates on an offender's progress.

Liability – The offenders will be subject to the same liability agreements that all other volunteers are, based on the agency's volunteer program.

Site Inspection – The agency agrees, upon the request of the City, to facilitate an inspection of the work site.

Refusing Offenders – The agency understands there is no obligation to accept or retain an offender. The Court encourages agency staff to promptly report any issues or problems with participating offenders. Agencies may terminate a participant at any time by notifying the Court.

Agency: _____

Agency Representative (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix B:

Memorandums and Summaries

Appendix BI: Measure 112 Interpretation Memorandum

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this memo is to cover relevant pieces of Measure 112 and provide an interpretation of what it means for the implementation of a community service program. The Oakridge Municipal Court has tasked the Real-World: Lane County team to develop a new Community Service Program while considering key legislation.

Oregon Measure 112 is a constitutional amendment that was approved by Oregon voters in 2022, which repealed language from the Oregon State Constitution that allowed “slavery” and “involuntary servitude” as criminal punishments. This amendment is part of a larger movement to eliminate outdated and discriminatory language from State Constitutions. This measure also authorized Oregon Courts and parole and probation agencies to order “alternatives to incarceration” during sentencing, such as education, counseling, treatment, community service, or other programs.

BACKGROUND

Measure 112

Historically, the language allowing “slavery” and “involuntary servitude” as punishment for crimes was part of Oregon’s original constitution, adopted in 1857. This was a common provision in many other state constitutions during this period of time. Before the 2022 passing of Measure 112, those imprisoned were allowed by law to be forced to provide labor or be “employed” in their facilities. At times these prisons and jails relied heavily on this involuntary service, offering close to no payment. The discrimination within the criminal reformation system meant that through this section, predominantly minority groups experienced the brunt of the involuntary labor. This alarmed many, appearing to violate the federal constitution by banning slavery, and initiating the amendment.

The campaign to pass Measure 112 was led by Oregonians United to End Slavery and Oregonians Against Slavery Involuntary Servitude (OASIS). These groups argued that removing such language would be a step towards a more just and equitable society. They favored community service and work opportunities being elective, led by those choosing to participate. There was no formal opposing campaign to the measure, but there were concerns about the potential impact of prison work programs and accountability for those convicted of crimes. Opposing parties’ main concerns were often the increased costs that would follow the lack of virtually free labor.

Measure 112 was referred to the public as a constitutional amendment. Through Senate Joint Resolution 10, the policy proposal was passed with the Senate and House voting yes. Once on the ballot, it was voted in favor by 55.59% to 44.41% and approved on November 8th, 2022.

STATUTES AND INTERPRETATION

There are two main sections of Oregon law regarding community service programs, Measure 112 which updated Section 34 of the Oregon Constitution, and ORS137.128-129.

Measure 112

“(1.) There shall be neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude in this state the State, ~~otherwise than as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.~~

“(2.) Upon conviction of a crime, an Oregon court or a probation or parole agency may order the convicted person to engage in education, counseling, treatment, community service or other alternatives to incarceration, as part of sentencing for the crime, in accordance with programs that have been in place historically or that may be developed in the future, to provide accountability, reformation, protection of society or rehabilitation.”

Interpretation

Measure 112 removed the line allowing involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime, however voluntary service is still legal. Section 34 of the constitution specifically allows for an Oregon court to order a convicted person to engage in community service as part of sentencing for a crime.

ORS 137.128 (1)

(1) A judge may sentence a defendant to community service either as an alternative to incarceration or fine or probation, or as a condition of probation. Prior to such order of community service the defendant must consent to donate labor for the welfare of the public. The court or its delegate may select community service tasks that are within the defendant’s capabilities and are to be performed within a reasonable length of time during hours the defendant is not working or attending school. ORS 137.129 (1)

The length of a community service sentence shall be within these limits:

(1) For a violation, not more than 48 hours.

Interpretation

ORS 137.128 again specifically allows for a judge to assign a defendant to community service as an alternative to a fine or incarceration. The statute further specifies that the defendant must consent to community service before the judge makes the order and that the community service tasks are within the defendant’s capabilities.

ORS 137.129 specifies limits for the duration of community service, allowing for up to 48 hours of service for a violation.

IMPACT ON OAKRIDGE

Overall, Measure 112 encourages the state and local governments to shift towards more restorative, rehabilitative, and equitable justice practices. These shifts can benefit both defendants and the communities they serve, by volunteering and participating in programs that benefit both sides. The Oakridge Municipal Court aims to have a Community Service Program in partnership with local organizations to give defendants alternatives to paying fines. The City of Oakridge is aware that defendants cannot always afford to pay their fines and the fact that many defendants are unhoused. These alternative voluntary programs give defendants the opportunity to pay their fines through other means, while gaining experience.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Oakridge Community Service Program development needs to comply with Oregon Measure 112 in several ways. The program is required to be voluntary for defendants as an alternative to fines in the case of Oakridge. It must also ensure that defendants volunteer no more than 48 hours. The program will be developed based on Measure 112 requirements, and other legal restrictions at the federal, state and local levels. Past case studies, research, and program partner outreach are included in the process of developing the Oakridge Community Service Program. The Oakridge team is working with the Municipal Court to fulfill the requirements, needs and wants for the program.

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"Oregon State Legislature Oregon Revised Statutes." Bills and Laws, www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/pages/ors.aspx. Accessed 6 Feb. 2025.

Appendix BII: Summary of Case Studies

As part of our research for the Oakridge Municipal Court Community Service program, the Real World team looked for similar programs, as well as Oakridge's previous program, to see what we could learn from them and apply to Oakridge. We interviewed staff from Oakridge, Lane County, Junction City, and Roseburg, who provided us with information on their jurisdiction's respective programs.

OAKRIDGE

The prior Oakridge Community Service Program was relatively informal. City staff maintained a list of nonprofits interested in working with defendants, including their contact information. The judge had the option to sentence defendants to Community Service in lieu of fines, upon which the list of nonprofits would be provided to them. It was the defendant's responsibility to apply to work with a nonprofit and report back to the Oakridge Court, with a signature and a timesheet verifying completion of their hours. Oakridge Staff would reach out to nonprofits if more information was needed, or the Court Clerk suspected a defendant had lied about their service. Defendants were also able to work with Public Works and the fire department. The program ended due to a lack of capacity from agencies and city staff.

LANE COUNTY

The Lane County Community Service Program is the closest example of similar programs in the area, and therefore very helpful when developing a Community Service Program for the Oakridge Municipal Court. The Lane County judge has the option to sentence defendants to community service hours in lieu of fines. Once sentenced, a defendant meets with Deputy Black, who provides them with an application form and timesheet they can bring to nonprofits. The focus is on defendants to find nonprofits willing to work with them, but Lane County keeps a database of every nonprofit that a defendant has worked with, and Deputy Black uses the list to help defendants find nonprofits. Defendants with criminal histories that may turn away nonprofits have the option to work as road crew.

JUNCTION CITY

Junction City previously had a community service program but does not operate the program anymore. One of Junction City's primary partners was Public Works. However, since Junction City did not have very many defendants going through the program, Public Works typically did not have a project for the defendant to work on. The program later stopped operating due to a lack of capacity from city staff.

ROSEBURG

Today, Junction City and Roseburg both have diversion programs, but they do not have community service programs. To be eligible for the Roseburg program, the defendant must either be unhoused, low-income, have mental health issues or have addiction issues. Instead of a fine, the judge outlines some kind of goal, such as completing a class or finding employment, and the defendant completes the goal in lieu of a fine. Roseburg has a brochure for defendants to get information about the program, that we have taken inspiration from to create our own brochure for defendants.

SCI Directors and Staff

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