

SEX OFFENSE SPECIFIC TREATMENT

Community Sex Offender (SO) Treatment grant funding was created to help subsidize treatment for individuals who must complete it as a condition of probation or supervised release and to provide oversight of programs.

Since 2007, state funding Sex Offender (SO) treatment has **only increased by \$150,000** – yet the number of clients served **has doubled**.

Due to this significant lack of funding, all programs charge co-pays to those needing treatment. However, many cannot afford the cost and risk going back to prisons for failing to pay and complete treatment. Thus, requiring the state to pay the higher cost of reimprisonment and the state pays the cost of higher risks to public safety. Sustainable funding will help reduce these costs. Victims want their perpetrator to receive treatment before they enter the community. If they cannot afford it, nothing will change.

Currently, community based SO treatment providers are serving over 2,000 clients across Minnesota. With current therapist salaries and the challenging work involved, nearly all treatment centers face significant recruitment and retention challenges, leading to long waitlists and postponed treatment.

Adequately funding the grant program will increase successful treatment completion rates, decrease victimization, and ensure individuals are not sent back to prison simply for being unable to afford the cost of treatment.



The request includes:

- \$2 million per year ongoing toward the current Community SO Treatment Grant Program, which would double funding for the vastly underfunded program.
- \$120,000 per year ongoing for one staff to continue to pilot an Intensive Outpatient Sex Offender Treatment Program. Without this treatment option, clients will either need to access costly residential treatment in prison or in the community, both of which are extremely limited in capacity.
- \$200,000 per year ongoing to increase community residential SO treatment by five beds.
- \$95,000 per year ongoing to hire one staff to expand and formalize training for all agents (supervised release, probation, and juvenile) with sex offense specific clients.

“There is absolutely no way that limiting access to treatment or sending people back to prison simply for not being able to afford it leads to safer communities.”

- Community sex offender treatment therapist