

COVID-19 Final Report for COCC Addictions Studies Department**“Addiction Studies Scholarship 2021-2022”****Reviewed by the Address Poverty & Enhance Self-Sufficiency Workgroup****Summary of Results:**

- The COHC funding provided scholarships for COCC students specifically pursuing their degree in Addiction Studies or Human Services.
- There were four students who benefited from this scholarship in the 2021-2022 academic year.
- Each student received a portion of the funding.
- Funding was distributed based on need.
- All four students are working toward their goal of becoming Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselors (CADC).
- There is a lack of CADC's in Central Oregon.
- At a recent Advisory Board meeting every agency shared that they needed to hire CADC's and had been for some time.
- There is a growing need in the community likely due to several factors. One, due to the pandemic and increasing numbers of people seeking treatment services.
- Two, theoretically, funding from ballot measure 110 coming to treatment centers. Three, due to housing costs, people cannot move from out of the area to live in Central Oregon to work at a living wage job (one must already live here).
- All four students identify as being in recovery which often poses a challenge in finding a job (due to stigma and discrimination). While this is not true in substance use treatment employment, it is true in many other fields.

Quote:

"This will help relieve so much stress that I have carried towards being able to afford tuition and books. Although I may not be able to achieve financial stability quickly, this is a hand up towards earning my degree and working towards a better life. College always seemed like a far-off dream, unachievable, and simply not in the cards for me. Once I was able to start, it just felt right to be bettering myself and pursuing an education."