



Oregon's 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver and Health-Related Services

Health-Related Services in Oregon

Health-related services (HRS) are non-covered services under Oregon's Medicaid State Plan that are intended to improve care delivery and overall member and community health and well-being. The two types of HRS include flexible services and community benefit initiatives, as defined below.

Flexible services (FS)

Cost-effective services delivered to an individual OHP member to supplement covered benefits and improve their health and well-being. Examples include: grocery delivery or food vouchers for members to ensure access to quality food, rental deposits to help members move into stable housing, athletic shoes to support members' healthy behaviors, or mobile devices for members to access telehealth services and health apps.

Community benefit initiatives (CBI)

Services for, but not limited to, OHP members that are focused on improving population health and health care quality. Examples include: funding community parenting education or nutrition classes, partnering with local public health on an immunization campaign to improve childhood immunization rates, or funding school-based interventions that improve students' social-emotional health.

The history of HRS and how it has evolved under previous waivers is detailed in the [HRS Brief](#). This guidance details the impact of Oregon's 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver ("1115 Waiver") on the use of HRS in Oregon. Additional guidance and technical assistance can be found on OHA's [HRS webpage](#).

2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver in Oregon

In 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved Oregon's 1115 Waiver renewal application to further transform the state's Medicaid program, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Although the 1115 Waiver includes changes to some OHP member benefits and how care is delivered, the HRS program remains unchanged from the previous waiver.

The new 1115 Waiver includes social supports for some members to help improve health outcomes via covered benefits called health-related social needs services. These benefits will be provided to members experiencing defined transitions in their lives and may include housing supports, food assistance, and protection from climate events.¹ These health-related social needs services will not become covered benefits for eligible members until 2024, at the earliest.

¹ In addition to the Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver health-related social needs benefits, the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) 1115 Waiver includes eligibility requirements for CCOs to cover some housing transition services for some members; these are being added to CCO contracts. More details available on the [SUD 1115 Waiver webpage](#).

The planned health-related social needs benefits and eligible life transition populations are as follows:

2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Waiver: Life transition populations

OHP members who are experiencing transitions in their lives and may be eligible for health-related social needs benefits include the following:

- Youth with special health care needs aged 19 to 26
- Youth who are transitioning or are at risk of transitioning into or out of child welfare, including foster homes
- People who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- Adults and youth released from state or Tribal custody, including prisons, local correctional facilities, tribal correctional facilities and the Oregon State Hospital
- Adults turning 65 years old who are transitioning from Medicaid eligibility to dual Medicaid and Medicare eligibility
- People living in a region that is experiencing an extreme weather event, as declared by the Oregon Governor or federal government, that places their health and safety in jeopardy

2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Waiver: Health-related social needs benefits

Housing services for eligible life transition populations may include:

- Rental assistance or temporary housing (e.g., rental payments, deposits, utility assistance) for up to six months
- Home modifications (e.g., ramps, handrails, environmental remediation)
- Pre-tenancy and tenancy support services (e.g., housing application, moving support, eviction prevention)
- Housing-focused navigation and/or case manager

Food assistance for eligible life transition populations may include:

- Links to community-based food resources (e.g., application support for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)/Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC))
- Nutrition and cooking education
- Fruit and vegetable prescriptions (for up to 6 months, also known as VeggieRX) and healthy food boxes/meals
- Medically tailored meal delivery

Services to protect from extreme weather events for eligible life transition populations may include:

- Payment for devices that maintain healthy temperatures and clean air, including air conditioners, heaters, air filters and generators to operate devices when power outages occur

The state will invest in infrastructure to ensure eligible members are able to receive their new health-related social needs benefits, which may include support for necessary technology, business or operational practices, workforce development, outreach, education and stakeholder convenings. OHA is developing the protocol for the infrastructure investments, which could affect HRS spending in 2024. OHA will communicate any changes once

infrastructure investment details are finalized. Additionally, if CCOs become contractually required to perform closed-loop referrals, the costs to implement closed-loop referrals, such as community information exchange, may potentially no longer be considered HRS. OHA will communicate any changes as more as details are finalized.

How will the health-related social needs covered benefits affect HRS?

HRS will continue in the 2022-2027 1115 Waiver as it did in the prior waiver. The definition for HRS has not changed and still excludes covered services. Thus, the overlap with health-related social needs will play out as follows. CCOs will continue to be able to provide short-term housing assistance and food assistance services as HRS if the member does not meet health-related social needs benefit eligibility conditions (i.e., qualifies for a life transition as defined above), whereas CCOs will be required to provide those services as a covered benefit when the member does meet health-related social needs benefit eligibility conditions. The following table provides examples of how these covered benefits may impact HRS. These examples will be updated as the health-related social needs benefit eligibility criteria and service details are finalized.

	Qualifies as HRS? Pre-implementation; Before 2024 with no covered benefit	Qualifies as HRS? Post-implementation; 2024 and later with covered benefit
Housing services		
CCO member living in their car for the prior year is provided short-term rental assistance in order to secure an apartment.	Yes. This may be an HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.	Maybe. If and when this becomes a covered benefit for an OHP member who meets eligibility criteria for a life transition population, it can no longer be HRS. For members not eligible for health-related social needs benefits, it can still be reported as HRS.
CCO member is provided with mold remediation services to support improved health outcomes. <i>The member is not part of a defined life transition population.</i>	Yes. This may be an HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.	Yes. This may be HRS flexible services because the member is not part of a defined life transition population.
Food assistance		
CCO member is provided a fruit and vegetable prescription to support improved health outcomes immediately after being released from a state prison.	Yes. This may be an HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.	Maybe. If and when this becomes a covered benefit for an OHP member who meets eligibility criteria for a life transition population member, it can no longer be HRS. For members not eligible for health-related social needs benefits, it can still be reported as HRS.

	Qualifies as HRS? Pre-implementation; Before 2024 with no covered benefit	Qualifies as HRS? Post-implementation; 2024 and later with covered benefit
CCO member is provided a fruit and vegetable prescription to support improved health outcomes. <i>The member is not part of a defined life transition population.</i>	Yes. This may be HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.	Yes. This may be HRS flexible service because the member is not part of a defined transition population.
Services to protect from extreme weather events		
CCO member received and has installed an air conditioner while living through an extreme heat event that is declared an emergency by Oregon's Governor.	Yes. This may be an HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.	Maybe. If and when this becomes a covered benefit for an OHP member who meets eligibility criteria for a transition population, it can no longer be HRS. For members not eligible for health-related social needs benefits, it can still be reported as HRS.
CCO member received and has installed an air conditioner, <i>but not while living through an extreme weather event that is declared an emergency by Oregon's Governor.</i>	Yes. This may be an HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.	Yes. This may be an HRS flexible service because it is not a covered benefit for this member.

Is there new CMS guidance on HRS community benefit initiative?

In the 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver's standard terms and conditions, CMS added new language to define the term "community benefit" as it relates to other federal programs. In further conversations with CMS, OHA has clarified that this does not affect 2023 CCO HRS definitions and guidance for HRS community benefit initiative. CMS has approved of the continuation of Oregon's approach to CBI as a part of HRS under the new waiver.

Resources

- OHA's Health-Related Services webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/dsi-tc/Pages/Health-Related-Services.aspx>
- OHA's 2022-2027 Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Pages/OHP-Waiver.aspx>

Contact

For comments and questions, please email the OHA HRS team at health.relatedservices@oha.oregon.gov.

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