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August 30, 2023

To: I/DD community members, Tribal partners and ODDS staff

From: Anna S. Lansky, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: Senate Bill 91 implementation update

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) has been working hard toward implementing Senate Bill 91 (SB 91). This bill directs ODDS to apply for federal approval for a permanent program to pay parents as caregivers for their minor children who are assessed to have very high medical or behavioral needs. More information is available in this [July 11 director's message](#).

This message includes a lot of information and updates about the status of implementing SB 91.

ODDS was thrilled to have robust participation from parents, advocacy groups, provider agencies, and other community partners at our two-part

workgroup on the implementation of SB 91. At these meetings, ODDS provided an overview of the bill, shared what is different between the bill and the temporary COVID-19 paid parent program, and sought feedback from members received about eligibility, the enrollment process, required training, monitoring, and more. We are grateful for all the helpful and important ideas and concerns shared at these meetings.

ODDS is focused on making sure SB 91 implementation is fair and equitable. Additionally, ODDS has received written feedback via email. Themes in the written feedback include the number of hours per week that this program would allow per child, overall support for SB 91, and eligibility criteria for the program.

A survey is now open to collect even more feedback on the questions that came in from our recent workgroups. The survey will be open through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5 and is available online in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Russian](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), and [Vietnamese](#). We would greatly appreciate your input through this survey.


Here is what is coming up next for the implementation of SB 91:

- **September:** ODDS will compile, review, respond to, and publish collected feedback from the survey, in writing, and in meetings. This feedback will inform the draft waiver application, which ODDS will also publish in September.
 - Once the waiver application is posted, a 30-day public comment and 60-day Tribal consultation period will begin.

- **December:** ODDS will compile and respond to public comments on the draft waiver application and submit them with the final waiver application by December 31.
- **January–March, 2024:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will likely review ODDS' application during this window. Federal approval of the waiver is expected in the first half of 2024, but that is not guaranteed.
 - Rulemaking will begin at this time. The rules will be temporary or permanent depending on time constraints. If they are temporary, the permanent rulemaking process will follow immediately.
- **Mid-2024:** If approval follows this estimated timeline, then the program will launch around this time.

We are grateful to everyone who has or will participate in this important process. Your feedback and experience is valuable.

Sincerely,



Anna S. Lansky

Interim Director

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available

at <https://www.oregon.gov/odhs/agency/Pages/odds.aspx?jump=true#dm>

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