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Jan. 19, 2024

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 update — Children’s Extraordinary Needs Waiver submission

ODDS submitted the new Children’s Extraordinary Needs Waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) this week. When approved, this waiver will allow us to implement Senate Bill 91. The bill directed us to seek federal approval for a permanent program to pay parents as caregivers. This program is for minor children assessed with very high medical or behavioral needs. It will provide these children and their families essential support.

Thank you, all who shared feedback on the draft waiver. The ODDS staff and I appreciate your suggestions, ideas and personal experiences. You informed our revision of the application. We included a summary of your

comments and our responses in [the full waiver application](#). This summary includes why we did or didn't adopt your ideas.

A few decisions from this process:

- At the request of many commenters, we added parental income disregard back into the application.
- We also removed the need to document a child's lack of access to providers from the eligibility criteria.
- We kept the cap of 20 hour per week, per child. Many people requested a change to 40 hours. We kept 20 hours to double the number of children this program can serve within its budget.
- Because of the program's limited budget, we anticipate having more applicants than space in the program. We will randomly assign a number to every child who initially applies. Children who do not get a space in the program will keep their initial order on the waitlist. If eligible, they will still have access to nonparent providers through the K Plan and other waivers. As spaces open, the first child on the waitlist will have the option to enter the program, if eligible. When new applicants wish to enter the program, we will add them to the end of the waitlist.

Resources

- Full summary of public comments on the draft application and ODDS' responses
 - [Arabic](#), [English](#), [Russian](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#)

- [Final waiver application \(English\)](#)
- Summary of the draft waiver and proposed program
 - [English](#) | [اللغة العربية \(Arabic\)](#) | [Русский \(Russian\)](#) | [Soomaali \(Somali\)](#) | [Español \(Spanish\)](#) | [简体中文 \(Simplified Chinese\)](#) | [Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)

If you need another language or format, please email us at odds.waivers@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Next steps

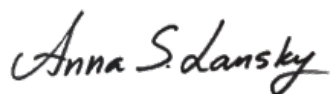
If all goes as planned, we anticipate this timeline:

- January 2024: CMS begins reviewing our application. We anticipate approval during the first half of the year.
- Spring 2024: Rulemaking.
- May–June 2024: Trainings for case management entities, parent providers and children in the program
- July 2024: If all goes as planned, we hope to start the program.

For more information, go to the [Senate Bill 91 website](#).

Thank you again for your feedback. We look forward to working with many of you on this project.

Sincerely,



Anna S. Lansky
Interim Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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