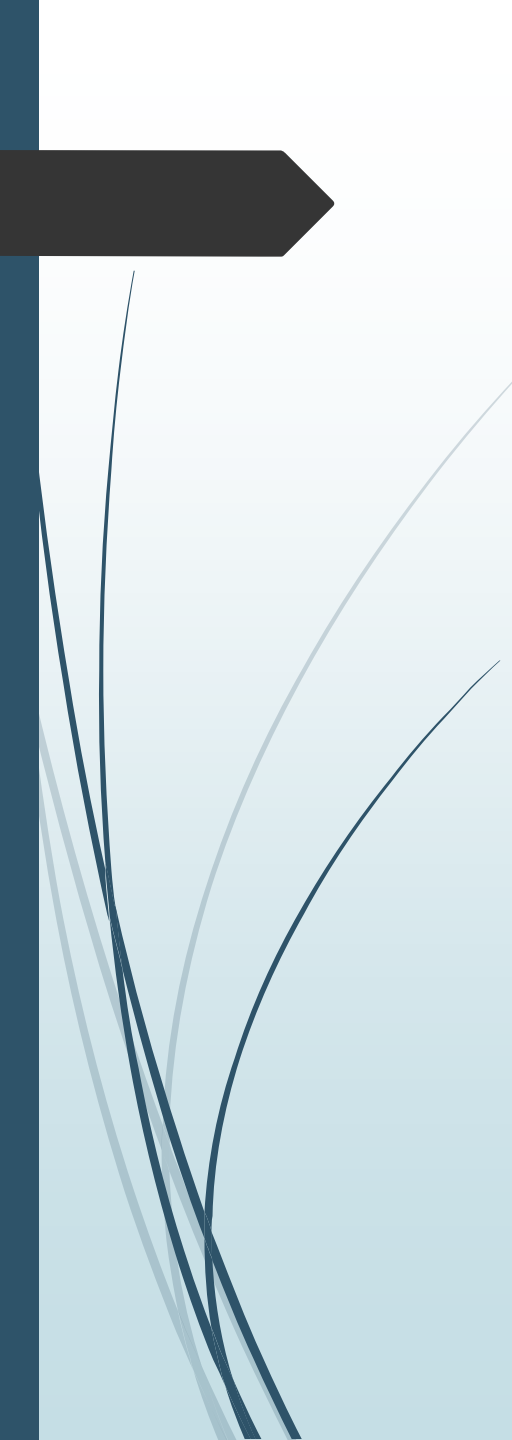




# Employed Persons with Disabilities Program

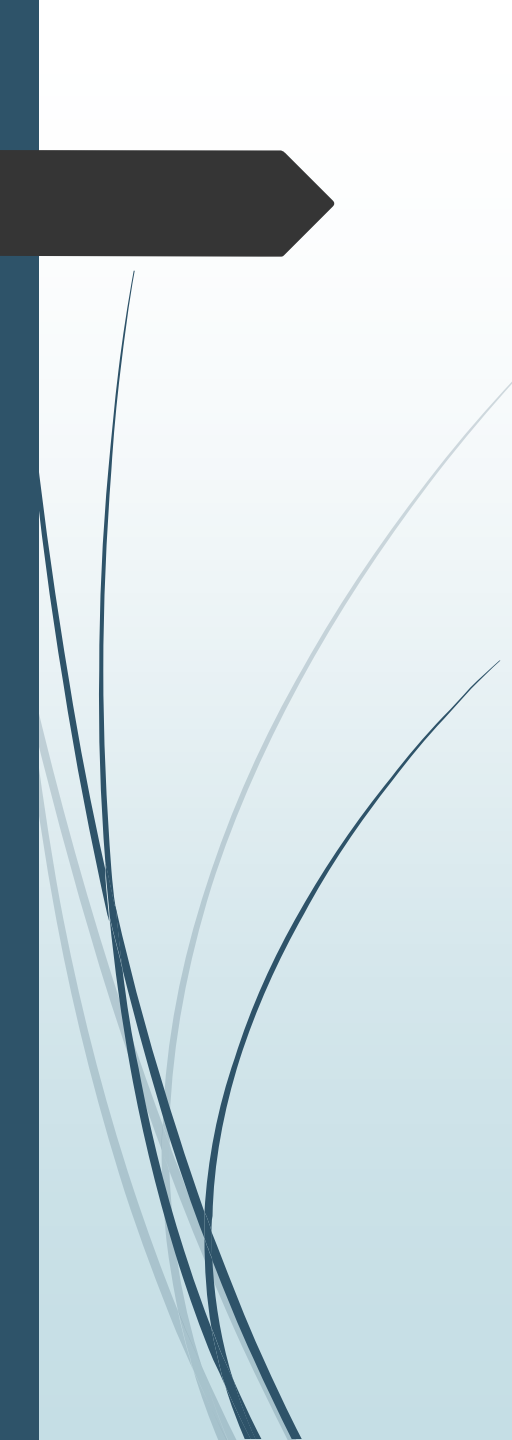
**Presented by: Janell White**

**Aging & People with Disabilities (APD) Policy Analyst**



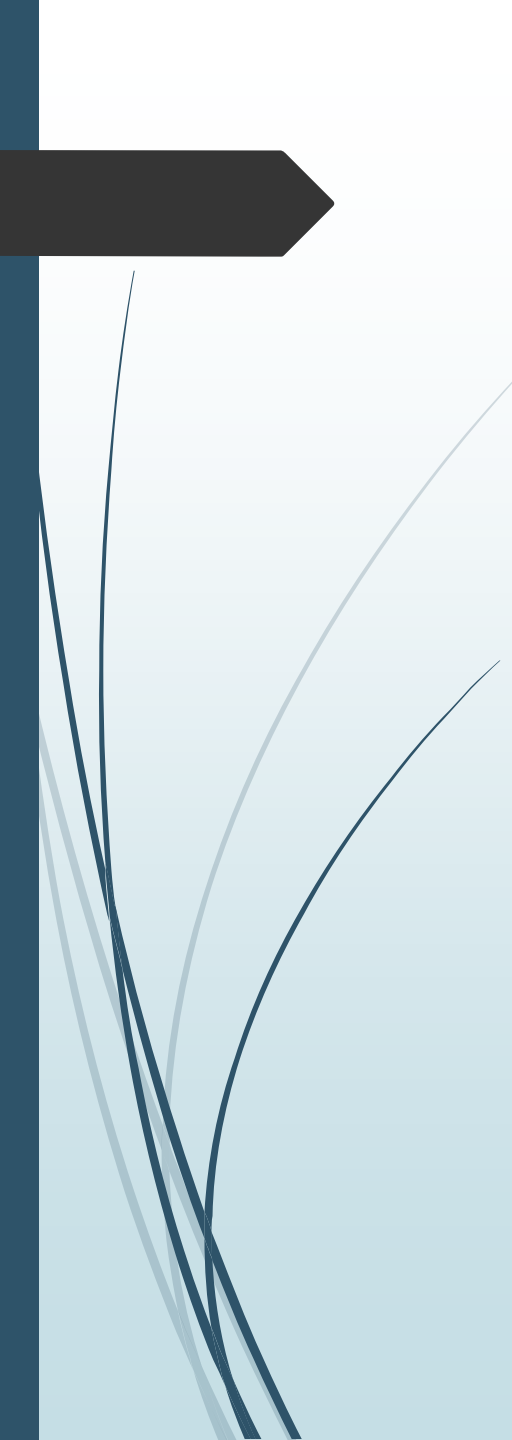
# History & Statistics

- Began February 1999
  - Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Section 4733)
  - State Plan Amendment enacting Section 1902(10)(A)(ii)(XIII) approved 1998
- Steady growth since enactment
- Nearly doubled in past 10 years
  - August 2014 = 1740 participants
  - August 2024 = 3021 participants



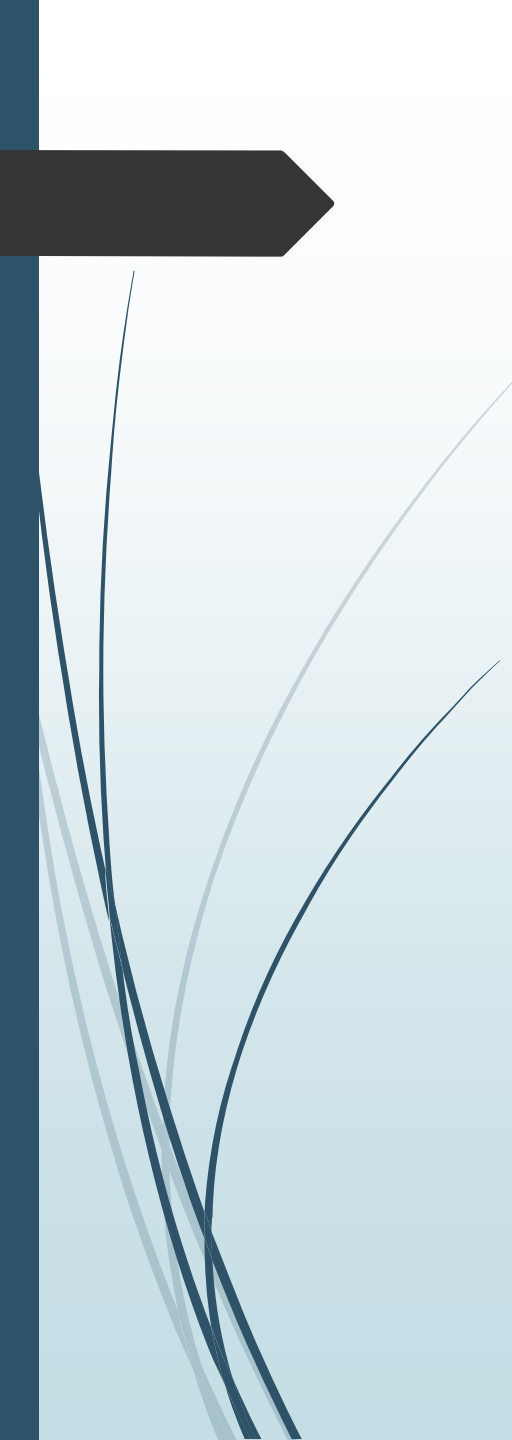
# Intent & Application

- Intended to help individuals with disabilities maintain Medicaid coverage while working
- Apply using same application as other Medicaid
  - 7210 paper application
  - ONE online application
- No specialized EPD application or staff



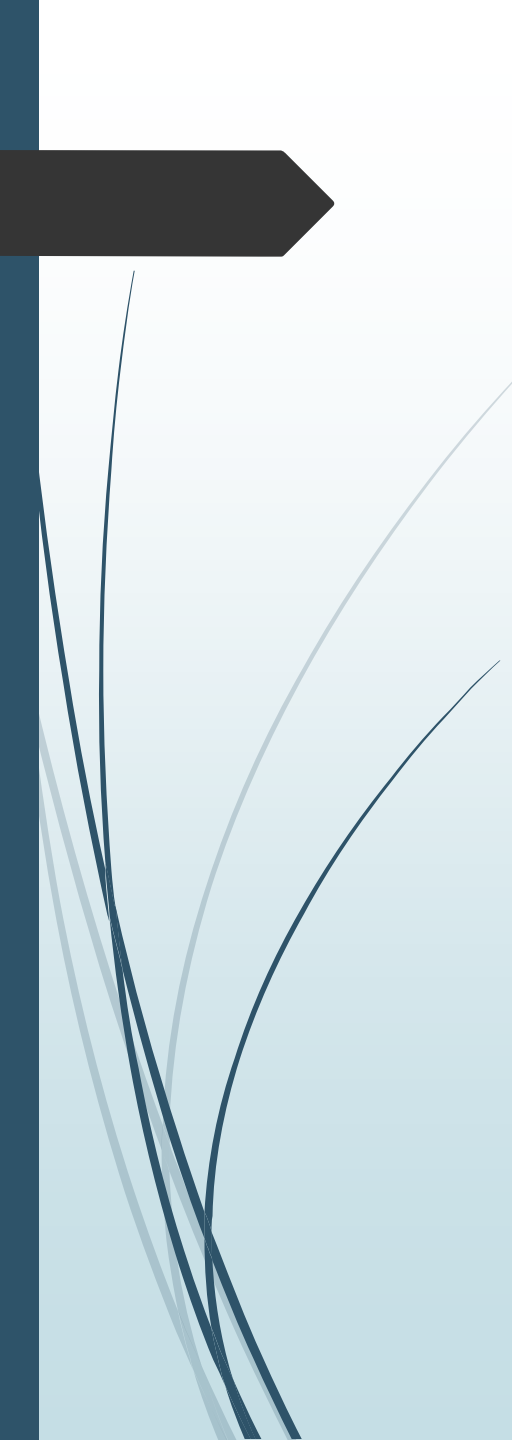
# Eligibility

- Disability only, not age
  - Determined by SSA or PMDDT
- Higher adjusted income limit of 250% of FPL (earned income only)
  - OSIPM = \$943
  - OSIPM-EPD = \$3,138
- Deducts additional expenses
- Higher countable resource limit (\$5,000)
- Gross earnings up to \$6,361
- Employment



# Proposed Bill Changes

- Eliminate income limits [1902(10)(A)(ii)(**xv**)]
- Eliminate resource limits [1902(10)(A)(ii)(**xv**)]
- Expand lower age limit from 18 to 16 [1902(10)(A)(ii)(**xv**)]
- Allow continued eligibility for medically improved individuals [1902(10)(A)(ii)(**xvi**)]



# Participant Fee

EPD participants pay a monthly fee as a condition of eligibility (Medicaid Buy-In)

- Based on **total** countable earned and unearned income
- Payment is required for eligibility

| Monthly Countable Income | Monthly Participant Fee |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Under \$942              | \$0                     |
| \$942 - \$1,254.99       | \$50                    |
| \$1,255 - \$3,137.99     | \$100                   |
| \$3,138 and above        | \$150                   |



# The Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition

- Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection
- Oregon Disabilities Commission
- Disability Rights Oregon
- SEIU 503
- Health Share of Oregon
- United Spinal Association
- Oregon State Independent Living Council
- Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens
- United Seniors of Oregon
- Oregon Consumer League
- Oregon State Rehabilitation Council
- Spokes Unlimited
- Stop Age and Disability Discrimination in Employment Coalition
- Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disability
- Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities

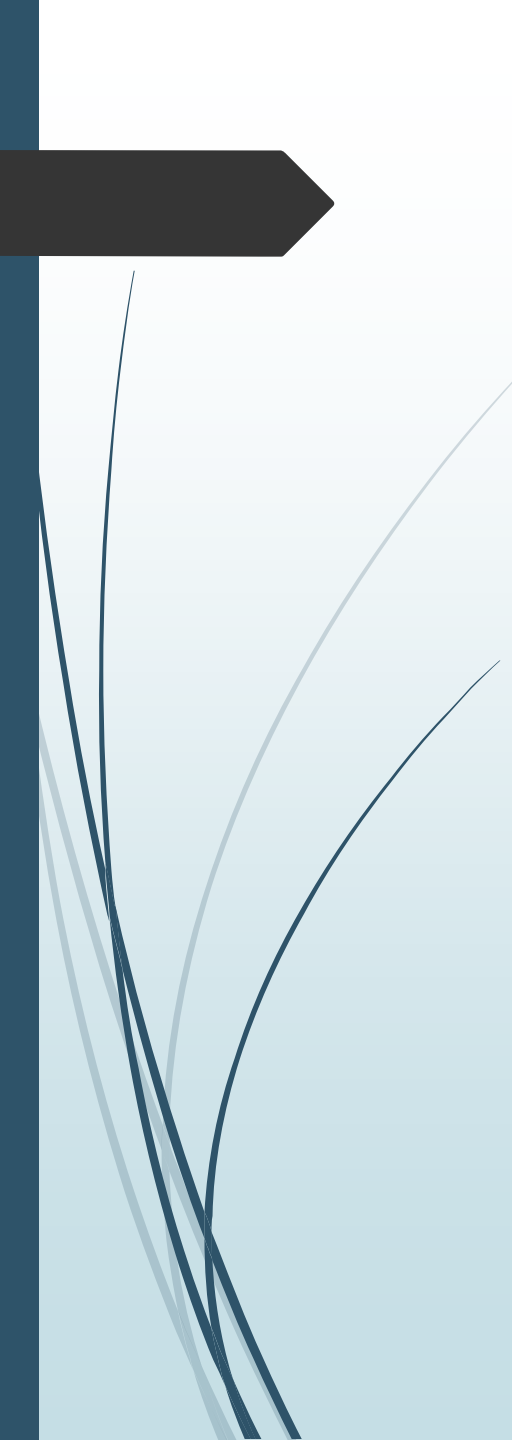


## Mission:

**Our mission is to make Medicaid, healthcare and employment equitable for people with disabilities in Oregon.**

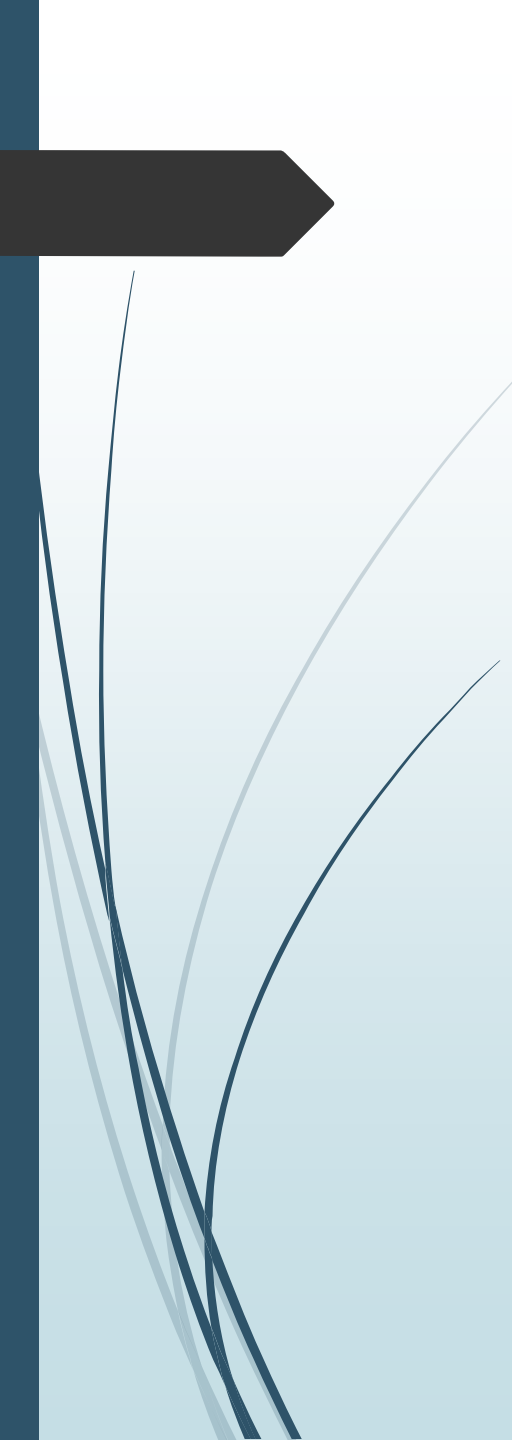
## Present Goal:

**To remove the income and resource limits from the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program.**



## Issue:

- Medicaid health (OHP) and long term services and supports (LTSS) like in-home care are necessary and vital for many working people with disabilities.
- Eligibility for the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program (EPD) requires that wages are below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level and resources do not exceed a value of \$5,000.00.
- When EPD participants reach and exceed the EPD limits, they are no longer eligible to receive Medicaid benefits because they are no longer “disabled” according to the SSI definition.
- Participants must then decide whether to continue, change or curtail their work or quit in order to keep Medicaid benefits.
- Forcing decisions like this upon people with disabilities is inequitable. Especially when the state has the ability to change the eligibility limits on their own.



# The Coalition's Goal:

- Remove EPD's income and resource limits through legislation in Oregon's 2025 Regular Session.

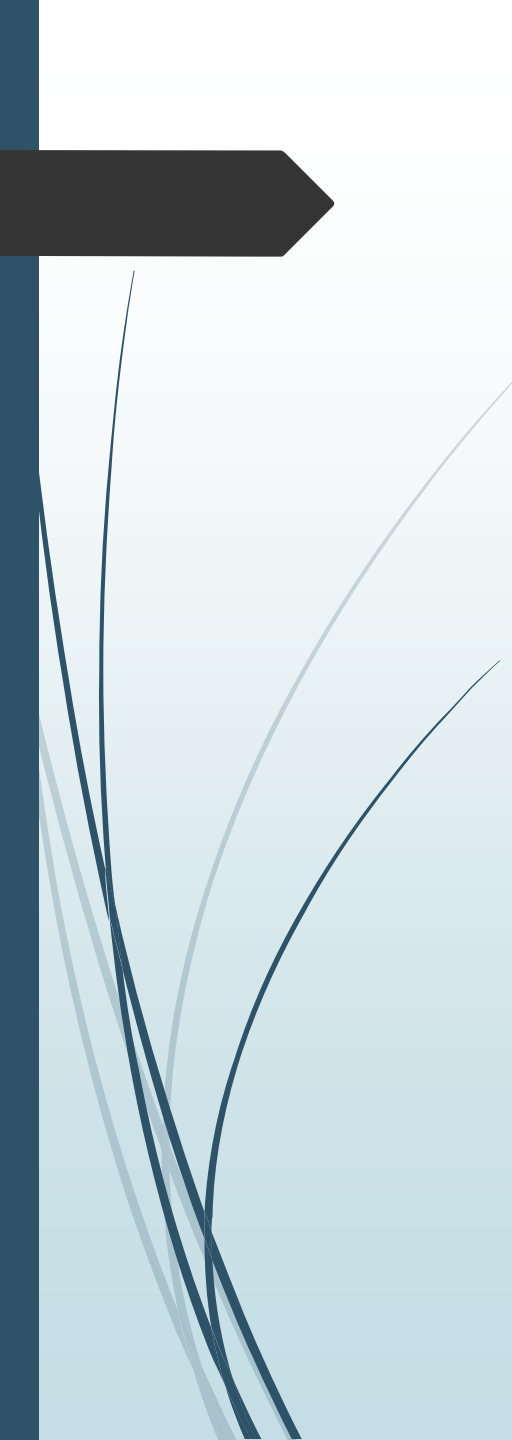
## Strategies:

- Introduce a bill in the Legislature.
- Educate Legislators about the need for policy change.
- Enlist as many partners in the Coalition as possible.
- Educate and equip advocates with information to share.



# How You Can Help:

- Join our coalition.
- Tell people you know about us and the bill.
- Ask your state Senator and Representative to vote for and cosponsor the bill.
- Ask your Coordinated Care Organization to support the bill.
- Ask your local Center for Independent Living to support the bill and join the Coalition.
- Provide testimony in support of the bill when it is scheduled for hearings.
- Attend two Legislator education events at the Capitol
- Reach out to us for assistance.



## Contacts:

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- Jim Davis, Coalition Co-Chair  
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caruanaa@oregonstate.edu (503) 440-8350

# Questions?

