



STATE OF OREGON  
Office of the Governor  
**KATE BROWN**

Governor's Recommended Budget, 2021-23

**Ensuring All Oregonians' Basic Needs are Met: Human Services**

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**HEALTH & SAFETY IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES**

The Governor's budget includes \$17.9 million in investments in a range of strategies to protect seniors living in assisted living and nursing homes from COVID-19. These Oregonians are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19, and the virus has proliferated in facilities across Oregon and the nation.

- Six infectious disease control specialists positions to provide technical assistance on infectious disease prevention and response to senior congregate care settings
- an initiative to retain essential health care workers by improving access to quality health care benefits for caregivers
- Training and apprenticeship programs for Certified Nursing Assistants
- Virtual visits and technology supports to improve care and socialization for seniors

This budget also continues Adult and People with Disabilities (APD) program's focus on prevention and community based care as an ongoing priority by continuing rate increases that have occurred in the 2019-21 biennium. The Governor's Budget protects current eligibility criteria and service levels by continuing to support optimal staffing levels for both Area Agencies on Aging and state staff. The budget continues a reduction made by the Legislature in the August 2020 Special Session, by removing funding for vacant field staff positions. The plan provides funding for maintenance and operations for the Provider Time Capture project, which supports electronic visitation verification for In-Home care providers in both APD and the Oregon Health Authority.

**OREGON PUBLIC GUARDIAN PROGRAM**

This budget invests \$1.7 million to expand capacity of Oregon's Public Guardian Program, to assist an additional 80-100 people with cognitive impairments receive services needed to remain safe, stable and housed.

## **DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION & REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

In her 21-23 Budget, the Governor has prioritized investments that promote racial justice and equity. The Human Services budget invests \$4.4 million in four initiatives to promote diversity, equity and inclusion within the agency and with the public:

- Rebranding the agency (including the Oregon Trail card)
- Providing greater language access within the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
- Increasing staffing capacity for equity expertise
- Implementing strategies within the Office of Equity and Multicultural Services that promote racial equity, such as training, employee resource groups and investments in Community Based Organizations.

Governor Brown also invested \$2 million to make permanent the 2019 investment in extended case management, employment supports and other vital supports available to all the refugees, asylees, and Special Immigrant Visa holders who have arrived to Oregon from 30 different countries since 2016.

## **CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT**

In Child Welfare, the Governor's Budget maintains funding for core services and adds General Fund investments to allow the agency to further implement recommendations made by Alvarez and Marsal, the contractor hired as a result of the Governor's Executive Order 19-03. These investments improve Oregon's Child Welfare system by stabilizing support systems and working upstream to make sure less children enter child welfare and fewer parents struggle with addiction and recovery.

- \$1 million to expand training capacity
- \$15.9 million to increase staffing levels and provide core program infrastructure
- \$4.6 million to create infrastructure for the Family Preservation and Prevention Program
- \$19.4 million to establish an effective respite care program
- Staff support for the Governor's Child Foster Care Advocacy Commission.

Additionally, the Children's System of Care is supported through continuation of baseline funding invested in 2019 through SB1/221 to serve Children and Youth with Specialized Needs.

## **OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES**

The Governor's ODDS Budget protects current eligibility criteria and service levels for individuals in need of I/DD services. The budget also includes a \$34.4 million General Fund investment to transition from the old provider rate structure and current assessment instruments, to the new service groups based on the Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA) and new rate model payment categories. This investment also provides funding for better wages for the direct care workforce that deliver services individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## **SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

The Governor's Budget maintains current eligibility, timeline and benefit standards for Self-Sufficiency programs. Additionally, an investment of \$10 million has been made to expand sexual assault and domestic violence programs for survivors through Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and culturally specific providers.