

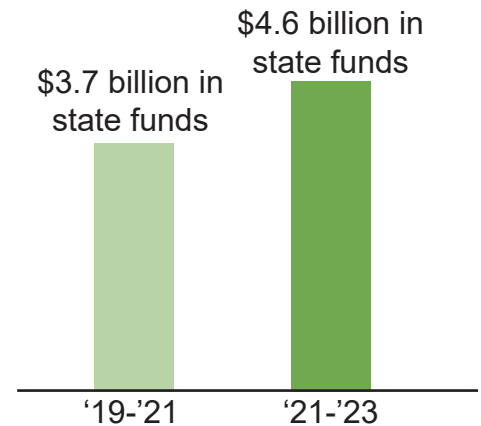
# 2021-'23 Budget

and 2021 Oregon Legislative Session Fact Sheet



## Summary

This session the legislature made record investments in health, housing, education and human services sending a strong message that Oregon is moving to thinking of health and well-being as something that starts in our families, in our schools and workplaces, and communities. For ODHS, we'll be working to strengthen equity, community well-being and access to services in the coming biennium with the investments Oregon made in our work.



## ODHS Budget Highlights

The new budget helps ODHS to improve equity and the well-being of Oregonians and their communities as we rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires. Highlights include:

- Funding to continue services for caseloads and costs per case into 2023-25. There were also investments that increase rates, increase eligibility for some programs, and reinstate services cut or reduced in the 2019-21 biennium to support Oregonians and the

critical provider infrastructure ODHS relies on for service provision.

- \$15.5 billion in total funds for the 2021-23 biennium
- \$4.6 billion in state funds, up from \$3.7 billion
- 10,140 positions, up from 9,574

## Becoming a more equitable organization

The budget bill provides \$5.6 million in total funds to address the roots of systemic oppression that impact all protected classes.

The funding enables ODHS to improve equity and accessibility in service delivery to communities of color and historically disadvantaged groups; to provide greater language access within the Office of Development Disabilities Services (ODDS), and to increase capacity in the ODHS Office of

Equity and Multicultural Services.

Also notable was the passage of HB 2505 which creates the Child Welfare Equity Advisory Committee within the Governor's Oregon Child Foster Care Advisory Commission to address inequities and advise the Department.

# Supporting the well-being of Oregon

Historic investments were made in the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) system. Investments in the ODDS workforce will help ensure we have a robust service delivery system that provides quality supports to people with I/DD. The investments include full funding for new provider rate models starting July 1, 2022. This funding will be critical to improving quality in our service system and will result in higher wages for Direct Support Professionals who serve people with I/DD.

Several other investments to highlight:

- \$4.4 million in general funds and 52 positions to expand Oregon Project Independence (OPI) and create a new Family Caregiver Supports program. This funding expands OPI to assist consumers who need a lighter amount of supports to continue to live at home

and creates a program to support consumers receiving supports from unpaid or family caregivers.

- \$10 million in general funds and three positions to create the Survivor Investment Partnership program to provide domestic violence and sexual assault services to survivors through contracts with culturally specific organizations and Tribes.
- \$4.3 million in general funds for refugee extended case management and employment support services.
- \$5.9 million in general funds and two permanent positions in the Foster Care and Youth Transitions Unit to expand the Independent Living Program with a goal of improving outcomes for youth in their young adulthood.

## Improving access to our services

When the Stay Home, Save Lives order took effect in the early days of the pandemic, we quickly learned the importance of giving people more virtual options for connecting with us. And the 2020 wildfires reminded us how critical it is to mobilize swiftly and go to where survivors are sheltering to sign them up for benefits and services.

Supporting our efforts to increase access to ODHS, the Legislature is funding the ongoing maintenance and support of OregONEligibility, or ONE. Earlier this year ODHS and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) successfully expanded the ONE system to give Oregonians more choice and convenience in how they apply for medical, food, cash and child care benefits. Through ONE, Oregonians can apply for benefits, renew their coverage, upgrade case information and more online, by phone or in person.

Also notable was the passage of HB 3073. The bill establishes a new agency called the Department of Early Learning and Care

(DELIC) that will consolidate child care and early education programs in one place to create a system that is more responsive to the needs of children, families and providers. The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program administered by ODHS will move into the new agency in July 2023.

Lastly, the passage of HB 5006 that provided funding to support 2020 wildfire survivors with shelter, meals and wraparound services.

### Looking for more?

Find more detailed budget information, budget presentations, and more on our legislative website.

<https://go.usa.gov/x6MGv>