



March 6, 2018

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

This message includes two timely topics important to the I/DD community: DD Awareness Month and the 2018 legislative session wrap-up.

The Oregon Legislature holds its short session in even-numbered years. Short sessions usually include rebalancing budgets and a limited number of policy items. This year's session wrapped up last Saturday. Here are highlights of the ODDS-related items:

- The Legislature approved an investment for the Background Check Unit (BCU) to cover the costs of providing background checks, as well as to increase staffing levels to reduce the current backlog and waiting time.
- Funding for 10 positions for the Children's Intensive In-Home Services (CIIS) and Children's Residential programs that were included in the workload model for 2017-19.
- Our plan to achieve the required \$12 million overall budget reduction was approved. We expect to meet the full reduction through administrative and management actions, including reducing contracts, taking steps to maximize federal funding, and maintaining cost per case. The plan is designed to prevent reductions in services, eligibility or rates in the current biennium (through June 2019).
- ODDS's significant legislation includes SB 1534. It directs DHS to collaborate with the Home Care Commission to establish minimum training standards for home care workers and personal support workers. More than 30,000 home care workers and personal support workers serve more than 25,000 vulnerable Oregonians each month.

Developing a highly trained, culturally appropriate, and person-centered workforce requires an investment in training opportunities to enhance the safety, stability, and quality of life for those served in-home through the Aging and People with Disabilities and ODDS programs. This bill is waiting the governor's signature.

### **March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month!**

Every March, the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) takes the lead in helping Oregonians recognize and celebrate DD Awareness Month.

OCDD's 2018 #BetterTogether photo rally will celebrate people with disabilities as valued members of their communities and highlight the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.

We encourage you to participate by sending photos to OCDD of people with I/DD with friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors or other members of the community.

You can also post pictures on the Council's [Facebook page](#). Use the hashtag #BetterTogether18.

[Details are online](#) on the Council's website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lilia".

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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