



April 7, 2020

To: Individuals and families receiving ODDS Services; Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDPs)

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

I know this a very challenging time for all Oregonians. We are doing our best to navigate daily life in the new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I know for families this is an especially difficult time as you work to keep your family members safe and healthy.

ODDS has changed some policies in response to COVID-19 and created a number of resources for individuals and families. I want to highlight just a few of the important steps we have taken to support families at this time.

- Expanded the Family Support program and broadened criteria for Family Support purchases. Children receiving other in-home services can now access Family Support funds in addition to their other services. These funds can be used to purchase services not readily available via the K Plan or through other resources, such as (but not limited to) technology needed to facilitate telehealth, and other items related to a behavioral, safety, medical, and/or ADL/IADL support need. Additional information is available in the [policy transmittal](#).
- Authorized CDDPS to approve [overtime hours for Personal Support Workers](#) who may need to increase hours to cover for other workers as a result of COVID- 19. A list of available workers is at: https://seiu503.org/member_news/covid-19-resources-for-homecare-and-personalsupport-workers/.

- The new ODDS Staffing Support team may also have agency staff available to support a child. Check with your Services Coordinator if you need this support.
- [Ensured services](#) continue uninterrupted if an ISP is set to end during this emergency situation by extending plan dates and pausing eligibility redeterminations.
- Changed [policy](#) to case managers to support people over the phone or video chat instead of face-to-face. Families can now authorize plans remotely.
- Changed [policy](#) to allow behavior specialists to provide supports virtually if needed.

Other resources for individuals and families include:

- A [podcast](#) explaining steps ODDS has taken
- A [Powtoon video](#) explaining the Governor's "Stay Home, Save Lives" order
- [Another video](#) with health and safety information for people with I/DD

I encourage individuals and families to subscribe to the [ODDS COVID-19 web page](#) where you will receive updates when new information and policies are posted.

I know we all have the safety and health of our family, friends and loved ones at the top of our minds. Thank you for all you are doing at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Previous Director's Messages are available at
[http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx)

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You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Office of Developmental Disabilities Services at 503-945-5811. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.