

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

Understanding the four percent rate increase to providers

I've been getting questions from providers and others about the four percent rate increase that was approved in the 2015-17 DHS budget. People have asked what services does this affect? What can providers use this increase for? When will it begin? Do providers have to report back on the use of the increase? This message will answer some of those questions.

The Oregon Legislature funded a four percent rate increase for non-bargained, provider agencies. This rate increase will be effective on January 1, 2016. It is important to note that this is a four percent rate increase.

This increase is for non-bargained providers, including: adult and child group home providers, supported living providers, agency employment providers, child foster care providers. The rate increase does not include transportation service providers. The service rate increase was approved with the expectation that wages and/or benefits for direct support staff will be increased by at least four percent during the 2015-17 biennium. Providers are expected to comply as a condition of the Legislative increase.

We are establishing a process to review Direct Support Professionals' questions and concerns after January 1, 2016. We will share that information when it is complete.

Here is the Budget Note for your information:

It is the intent of the Legislature that \$26.7 million total funds in provider rate increases approved in House bill 5026 (budget bill for

the Department of Human Services) result in wage increases for direct care staff serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The legislative expectation is that compensation (wages and/or benefits) for direct care staff in programs serving people with IDD should be increased at least four percent during the 2015-17 biennium.

During the 2016 legislative session an informational hearing will be scheduled for IDD community providers to present the actions they have taken or plan to take to meet budget requirements. On a parallel track and prior to seeking an allocation from the special purpose appropriation, the Department of Human Services will compile information on any complaints received regarding wage increases and consult with legal counsel and contract staff to determine the best, yet most cost-effective, approach to address potential provider non-compliance. The Department will also report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2017 legislative session on activity related to and progress made under this budget note.

We will share more information on this Budget Note as it becomes available.

Join us Monday for Home and Community-Based Services Forum

The next Home and Community-Based Forum is scheduled for Monday, August 31 at Central Oregon Community College, Willie Hall, 2600 NW College Way, Bend.

The forums are also hosted by the Department of Human Services Aging and People with Disabilities program and the Oregon Health Authority.

The next Forums are planned for:

- Wednesday, Sept. 2, Keizer City Hall Iris Ballroom, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer
- Thursday, Sept. 3, Hillsboro Public Library Event Room, 2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy., Hillsboro

Agency staff will provide information on upcoming changes to setting and service requirements for HCBS providers. These changes will impact providers of Aging and People with Disabilities, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Oregon Health Systems Division, formerly the Addictions and Mental Health program.

Here is information about the agenda and times for all the upcoming HCBS Community Forums: [Home and Community-Based Services Home and Community-Based Services](#). For further help contact: hcbs.oregon@state.or.us.

Upcoming Community Forums – and you are invited

We hope you can attend one of the **Community Forums**.

We will discuss our vision for the future of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There will be a short presentation followed by a group discussion.

The next Community Forum is planned for La Grande – September 16 and 17 at The Center for Human Development, 2301 Cove Avenue, La Grande. For people who receive services and their families: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

For CDDPs, Brokerages and Providers: Thursday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. – noon.

Here is information about all of the [Community Forums](#).

If you need more information, contact Cindy Steinkamp, Executive Support Specialist, cindy.l.steinkamp@state.or.us; 503-945-9780.

Transmittals for the Week of August 24, 2015

IM for Correction to Timesheet – Invoice Workers Guides

IM for Notification of Planned Action Worker Guide

For all transmittals:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/selfsufficiency/ss_cw_transmit.htm

Thank you for all of your hard work,

Lilia

Lilia Teninty

Director of the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Learn more about the [Office of Developmental Disabilities Services](#).

If you have a disability and need this document in another format, please send an email to DHS.Forms@state.or.us or contact the Office of Document Management at (503) 378-3523; TTY at 503-378-3523.