



March 11, 2022

To: ODDS Staff and Partners  
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)  
Subject: 2022 Legislative Session report

The Oregon Legislature's 2022 session ended March 4. The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) had significant success advancing three agency-wide priorities:

- Strengthening the foundations of human services
- Responding to emergencies and disasters
- Creating the future of human services in Oregon

Thank you, ODDS staff members, partner organizations and advocates who stepped up to work extra hours, testify and took on extra tasks to advocate for the I/DD system.

Here are some highlights from three bills that will have a significant and positive impact on ODDS and the services we provide.

### **HB 5202**

In addition to our rebalancing requests in HB 5202, ODDS received:

- Requested funding from the Special Purpose Appropriation for Non-State Employee Bargaining.
- Funds for the incentive payments to eligible workers serving clients with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) in child and adult group home settings.
- Funds for retention incentive payments for certain Stabilization and Crisis Unit employees.

### **SB 1545, the Future Ready Oregon bill**

This bill invests in a broad range of workforce strategies focused on securing Oregonians' access to the job training, education and resources needed to enter well-paying, skilled careers that meet employers' present

and future needs. To assist I/DD community partners in this work, ODDS will work with partner programs, such as Self-Sufficiency, to ensure these strategies include:

- Supports that incorporate community partners' feedback to ensure that grants meet the needs of people with I/DD.
- Supports that incorporate partners' input to ensure that employers outlined in the bill include the I/DD workforce.
- Training that will support benefits navigators to help Oregonians with I/DD access grants as applicable.
- Two limited duration staff positions — funded by the bill — to assist in these efforts.

### **SB 1548**

This ODHS-supported bill aligns with ODDS' goals of responsible stewardship and ensuring that the state's investments result in quality services that keep Oregonians with I/DD healthy and safe. The bill:

- Strengthens ODDS' statutory authority to enforce provider accountability measures across provider types.
- Pauses building code sprinkler requirements for new Adult Foster Homes and Group Homes.
- Approves the development of Agency with Choice, a new in-home services delivery model.
- Provides the necessary funds and positions to support this work.

Thank you again for your support and teamwork to make all of this happen. We are already building upon these successes in our preparation for the 2023 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lilia".

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

*Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>*

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