



May 2, 2022

To: All ODDS Staff and Partners (**CMEs please share with self-advocates.**)

Subject: OHA seeks people to help inform OHP and Medicaid program renewal process

Please consider the following invitation from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and share it with those who may be interested.

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) especially encourages external partners, self-advocates, and representatives from Community Developmental Disabilities Programs and brokerages to apply. Thank you.

Here's the OHA message in English and Spanish:

English:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is recruiting people to serve on a one-year Community and Partner workgroup (CPWG) to advise the state on its Oregon Health Plan renewal process to maintain insurance coverage for as many people in Oregon as possible and reduce health inequities.

The federal public health emergency allowed states to extend benefits to people enrolled in Medicaid programs and suspend eligibility reviews. When the federal public health emergency ends, OHA will be required to redetermine eligibility for everyone enrolled in Medicaid assistance programs in Oregon. This means possibly hundreds of thousands of people in Oregon may no longer qualify to receive the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) or other assistance program benefits.

The workgroup will advise OHA on outreach, enrollment and communication strategies to help program recipients navigate the changes and maximize continuity of coverage for as many people as possible.

Community and medical assistance program members will be compensated for their time.

If you are interested in applying to serve on this workgroup, you may:

- Complete this short application via this [survey](#)
- Call or email Jeremiah Keisling for assistance applying at 503-510-7884 or Jeremiah.Keisling@dhsoha.state.or.us

Please read the news release below for more detailed information.

Español:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA, por sus siglas en inglés) está reclutando personal para formar parte de un grupo de trabajo comunitario y de socios (CPWG, por sus siglas en inglés) de un año para asesorar al estado sobre el proceso de renovación del Plan de Salud de Oregon para mantener la cobertura de seguro para la mayor cantidad posible de personas en Oregon y reducir las desigualdades en materia de salud.

La emergencia de salud pública federal permitió a los estados extender los beneficios a las personas inscritas en los programas de Medicaid y suspender las revisiones de elegibilidad. Cuando finalice la emergencia de salud pública federal, OHA deberá volver a determinar la elegibilidad de todas las personas inscritas en los programas de asistencia de Medicaid en Oregon. Esto significa que posiblemente cientos de miles de personas en Oregon ya no califiquen para recibir el Plan de Salud de Oregon (OHP) u otros beneficios del programa de asistencia.

El personal asesorará a OHA sobre estrategias de divulgación, inscripción y comunicación para ayudar a los beneficiarios del programa a superar los cambios y maximizar la continuidad de la cobertura para tantas personas como sea posible. Los miembros del programa de asistencia médica y comunitaria serán compensados por su tiempo.

Si está interesado en postularse para servir en este grupo de trabajo, puede:

- Completar esta breve solicitud a través de esta [encuesta](#)
- Llame o envíe un correo electrónico a Jeremiah Keisling para solicitar ayuda al 503-510-7884 o Jeremiah.Keisling@dhsoha.state.or.us

Lea el comunicado de prensa para obtener información más detallada.

La información abajo de este anuncio de prensa está en Español [aquí](#).

From: Oregon Health Authority <oha@service.govdelivery.com>

Subject: Oregon Health Authority seeks workgroup participants to inform Oregon Health Plan renewal process to ensure continuity of coverage

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



April 20, 2022

Contact: Robb Cowie, 503-431-7684,
robb.cowie@dhsoha.state.or.us

Oregon Health Authority seeks workgroup participants to inform Oregon Health Plan renewal process to ensure continuity of coverage

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is seeking people to serve on a year-long workgroup to advise on the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) renewal process. OHA wants to make sure as many people as possible keep or improve coverage, especially people who have been disproportionately affected by lack of access to quality health care. Information on the workgroup including how to apply to participate can be found below.

During the public health emergency (COVID-19 epidemic), the federal government adopted a national policy of continuous enrollment of people in Medicaid (Called OHP in Oregon). Congress also allowed people to self-attest to eligibility criteria to make it easier for them to enroll in Medicaid. Due in part to these changes, Oregon experienced an increase in the number of people enrolled in assistance programs. Health insurance coverage rose, with a record 95.4% of people in Oregon reporting coverage in 2021. Oregon also experienced a reduction in inequities in health care coverage in 2021, with the rate of uninsurance for Black or African American people shifting to 5 percent from 8.2 percent. The policy shifts have also produced a reduction in the number of people who leave OHP and then reenroll a short time later. Oregon is committed to taking action to ensure that these gains do not end with the end of the public health emergency, when many of these policies expire.

Passed during the 2022 Legislative Session, HB 4035 directs the state to convene a Community and Partner Workgroup (CPWG) to advise the state on the developing outreach and enrollment assistance and communication strategies to assist OHP members in navigating the renewal process or transitioning to other health coverage. The CPWG will also provide recommendations on strategies to assist OHA in achieving its overall goal to maximize continuity of insurance coverage for as many people in Oregon as possible and reduce health inequities.

Workgroup scope:

The CPWG will make recommendations to OHA in its eligibility renewal process. In particular, the CPWG will advise OHA on:

1. Strategies for obtaining and updating contact information for medical assistance program enrollees.
2. Strategies for outreach and communication with enrollees in the medical assistance programs, health care providers, community partners and other organizations regarding the renewal process and availability of navigator assistance.
3. Strategies to maximize awareness and use of navigation assistance for enrollees.
4. Other strategies for conducting medical assistance program renewals to minimize loss of enrollees' medical assistance coverage.
5. Strategies to maximize the use of community-based organizations and other organizations that contract with OHA to provide navigational assistance.

Additionally, OHA is required to consult with the CPWG and seek recommendations in several areas outlined below:

1. Conducting ex parte, automatic, or active eligibility renewals.
2. Streamlining the process for requesting additional information from medical assistance program enrollees.
3. Changing the post-eligibility verification process to allow continuous enrollment while eligibility is verified.
4. Extending deadlines of up to 90 days for medical assistance program enrollees to respond to requests from OHA to verify eligibility factors.
5. Increasing the use of application assisters; and

6. Phasing in renewals by population.

Workgroup composition:

The CPWG will be a 10- to 14-member workgroup with representation from the following sectors:

- 4 community partners
- Up to 4 current OHP members* or individuals who have had OHP in the last year and have transitioned to other health coverage Marketplace, or who have lost health insurance coverage
- Up to 3 representatives of affected health systems with a focus on representation from across the state
- 1 representative of organized labor
- 1 representative from the Medicaid Advisory Committee (appointed)
- 1 representative from the Health Insurance exchange Advisory Committee (appointed)

Eligible community and medical assistance program members will be compensated for their time. This is in accordance with ORS 292.495.

*For the purposes of this workgroup, OHP members can include those directly covered by OHP or a parent or legal guardian of someone on OHP.

Timeline and Commitment:

The CPWG is anticipated to launch May 2022 and extend through April 2023. The CPWG will meet for 2.5 hours twice a month in May – July 2022 and then monthly for the remainder of the time. It is

anticipated that members will need to spend an additional 2-4 hours between meetings on workgroup-related activities and reading.

How to apply:

People interested in being on the Community and Partner Workgroup (CPWG) can apply by:

- Completing this [short application](#) via this survey
- Call or email Jeremiah Keisling for assistance applying at 503-510-7884 or Keisling@dhsoha.state.or.us

Applications are accepted until May 2, 2022.

###

Everyone has a right to know about and use Oregon Health Authority (OHA) programs and services. OHA provides free help. Some examples of the free help OHA can provide are:

- CART (live captions)
- Sign language and spoken language interpreters
- Written materials in other languages
- Braille
- Large print
- Audio and other formats

If you need help or have questions, please contact Brian Toups at [503-385-6542](tel:503-385-6542), or

brian.m.toups@dhsoha.state.or.us at least 48 hours before the meeting. OHA will make every effort to provide services for requests made closer to the meeting.



You are subscribed to Oregon Health Authority News Releases.
[View all OHA news releases.](#)

Manage Account

[Preferences](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Contact](#)

Stay informed!



Follow us on Facebook @oregonDHS.IDD or twitter @OregonODDS and [explore our website.](#)

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 calls from all forms of relay service for people who are Deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing or have a speech disability. For more information about relay service providers visit www.oregonrelay.com or www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/trs-providers.