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June 10, 2022

To: All ODDS staff and partners

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

Subject: Oregon Health Plan coverage and I/DD services for children and adults, regardless of immigration status

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) believe that everyone in Oregon should have access to quality health care. This includes home and community-based services that support Oregonians' well-being **regardless of their immigration status**.

Last year, the Oregon Legislature passed a bill to create the Healthier Oregon program. This program will ensure that more people living in Oregon have access to Oregon Health Plan benefits and ODDS long-term services and supports.

Healthier Oregon will roll out in two phases. ODDS is responsible for helping people access the I/DD services and supports covered by the program.

Phase one: July 1, 2022

Regardless of immigration status or income, all people who meet I/DD eligibility will be able to access case management services.

People **ages 19–25 or 55 and older who meet financial criteria and I/DD eligibility** will have access to:

- Full Oregon Health Plan benefits including medical care, physical exams, dental care, mental health care, prescriptions, transportation to medical appointments and more. Regardless of immigration status,

those 18 and under already have full Oregon Health Plan benefits via Cover All Kids.

- ODDS' case management services and full array of I/DD services and supports including long-term home and community-based services such as attendant care, employment services, assistive technology and help with normal activities of daily living, like bathing, dressing, walking or eating.

To access these services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, please [contact your county developmental disabilities program](#) after July 1, 2022.

Phase two: July 1, 2023

All people who meet I/DD eligibility criteria regardless of income or immigration status will continue to have access to ODDS case management services.

ODDS is hopeful Oregon Health Plan benefits and the full array of I/DD services and supports will be available to all ages in 2023. ODDS will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Resources

There are a number of current resources available to answer your questions.

- [Healthier Oregon FAQs \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Healthier Oregon mailings and flyers \(available in multiple languages\)](#).
- Healthier Oregon benefits are not affected by the Public Charge ruling, but there is an exception for long-term care services provided in a nursing facility or state hospital. For more information, see "[Know the Facts about Public Charge](#)."
- ODDS will provide more resources to case management entities in the coming weeks to help prepare for the implementation.

Questions

If you have questions about how Healthier Oregon affects your ODDS services, email ODDS.Questions@dhsosha.state.or.us.

This is a major milestone toward achieving greater equity and access to services for all people with I/DD regardless of their background. Thank you to our staff and partners for the work you are doing to make a Healthier Oregon a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" that loops around the first part of the name.

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

*Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available
at [http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
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