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July 28, 2022

To: All ODDS staff and partners  
From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)  
Subject: Update on in-home agency models, helpful resources

There have been many recent developments in ODDS' work to update and expand the in-home models for community living supports. Please read this message for information and resources to assist you.

## **Background**

ODDS has been working to better support people with intellectual and development disabilities (I/DD) who live in their own home or with family. As part of this effort, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), which includes ODDS, supported Senate Bill 1548.

In February, the Oregon Legislature passed the bill which called for increased quality and accountability by refining current in-home services models and building a new "agency with choice" model. In response to that, ODDS initiated service improvements including refining the regular agency model, now called the standard model.

Thank you to all of you, our staff and partners, who have been hard at work on this project.

## **In-home services models**

When ODDS and our partners complete this work in 2023, individuals with I/DD who live in their own home or with family will have three options for in-home services:

1. Personal support worker (PSW) model — This current option makes an individual or a person they chose the employer in charge of hiring and supervising their service providers.
2. Standard model agency (SMA) — In this provider-agency-based option implemented July 1, SMAs offer day-to-day supports to individuals and families who may not want to hire or manage their own providers. SMAs hire, schedule, train and pay direct support professionals, assist with staffing plans, and provide a high level of service.
3. Employer model agency (EMA) — This is the new “agency with choice” model called for in Senate Bill 1548. This option, which is currently in development, will be for people who do not want act as employers of record but who do want more day-to-day direction of their service providers.

Each provider will be responsible for their own staff that work with you. For individuals and families who like their current providers and don't have strong preferences about which model works best for them, you will be able to mix and match provider types. Your services coordinator or personal agent will be able to assist you with this decision.

### **Timeline and feedback**

ODDS adopted temporary rules for SMAs effective July 1, 2022. These rules expire Dec. 27, 2022. ODDS will continue to work closely with community members to develop permanent rules before that deadline.

We plan to implement the permanent rules for both EMAs and SMAs on Dec. 27, 2022. The permanent rulemaking process includes rule advisory committees (RACs), a public comment period and public hearings.

We anticipate holding RACs during the week of August 8 or 15. All are welcome to attend, but please understand that space is limited. You'll be able to [sign up soon on the ODDS Engagement and Innovation page](#).

We will also meet with self-advocacy groups to gather more feedback about self-directed supports. This will help inform our development of the EMA option.

We will keep you informed of these developments and opportunities.

## **Resources for CMEs and providers**

We are gathering tools and resources to help CMEs and provider agencies assist individuals and their families through this transition. We will also create resources to directly assist individuals and families and share those [online](#).

CMEs and providers, your resources are available on the web page, "[Compass Project: Resources for Case Managers and Providers](#)," under the heading, "In-Home Agency Models." Current resources include:

- [FAQs about changes in community living supports](#)
- [Conversation guide to aid in choice advising](#)

We will post additional resources and templates for some of the new requirements, such as progress reports and implementation strategies, as we complete them with the input of CMEs, providers and our other partners.

Please direct your questions to [ODDS.Questions@odhsoha.oregon.gov](mailto:ODDS.Questions@odhsoha.oregon.gov).

Thank you for working with us to improve these services.

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

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