

Family Caregiver Assistance Program

Background:

Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) has been directed to file a request with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to obtain Medicaid funding for a new Family Caregiver Assistance Program. The only way to obtain Medicaid funding for this program is for APD to request an 1115 Demonstration Waiver.

This is an overview of the proposed Family Caregiver Assistance Program. Oregon's population of older adults and younger individuals with physical disabilities will grow significantly over the next 20 years. They will be living longer with multiple chronic conditions and a significant portion of them will have fewer resources saved to pay for their services and supports. A sustainable Family Caregiver Assistance Program that provides support for family and unpaid caregivers, and the individuals they support, would help at-risk consumers maintain their independence and would improve their quality of life.

Objectives:

- Support older adults and people with disabilities to live their lives safely, with independence, choice and dignity;
- Support family and other unpaid caregivers so they can be with their loved ones, and delay or avoid an out-of-home placement;
- Potentially delay or prevent some consumers becoming eligible for more expensive Medicaid services and helping them maintain financial independence;
- Provide a preventative package of services to improve the services and supports consumers receive; and
- Leverage avoided costs to maintain and improve Medicaid long term services and supports for consumers who utilize them.
- Grounded in the principles of Oregon Revised Statute 410: that older adults and people with disabilities live their lives with independence, choice and dignity, and that services are inclusive of younger adults with physical disabilities as well as older adults.
- Designed so that they are accessible, easy to understand and with as few bureaucratic impediments to access services as possible for consumers and their families.
- Keeps the existing programs in place, but expands the number of consumers served, and the services offered.

Eligibility:

Individuals who meet the following criteria would be eligible for the Family Caregiver Assistance Program:

- Adults age 18 and older;
- Income no greater than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$4,163/individual, \$5,637/couple per month) and assets no greater than the average cost of six months in a nursing facility.
- Currently living in their own home, and not a provider controlled or owned facility or foster/care home;
- Meets Oregon's Service Priority Level 1 through 18;
- Exempt from estate recovery; and
- Does not utilize other Medicaid services and supports.

Program Package:

Individuals would be eligible to receive services and supports totaling no more than a \$500 per month. Services include:

- In-home support services or personal care services (in-home services to maintain, strengthen or restore an individual's functioning in one's home);
- Adult day services (non-residential community-based programs, providing services for part of the day);
- Respite services;
- Emergency response systems;
- Special medical equipment and supplies;
- Supports for consumer direction;
- Assistive technology;
- Minor consumer home modifications;
- Home delivered meals;
- Assisted transportation, in conjunction with another service;
- Supportive services (counseling, groups) for individuals and their caregivers;
- Family Caregiver Hotline; and
- Education and training for unpaid caregivers.