

# Oregon Project Independence Expansion

## 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 Oregon Project Independence (OPI). The only way to obtain Medicaid funding is for APD to request an 1115 Demonstration Waiver.

This proposal provides an overview for expanding Oregon Project Independence (OPI) using federal match through the 1115 Demonstration Waiver. This program would be called Oregon Project Independence – Enhanced (OPI-E). The original OPI program, with state-only funding, would continue at a smaller scale to serve consumers who would not be eligible for Medicaid-funded services. These remaining state funds would continue to satisfy Oregon’s Maintenance of Effort requirement for the Older Americans Act.

## Objectives:

- Support older adults and people with disabilities to live their lives safely, with independence, choice and dignity;
- Expand capacity of OPI to eliminate local waitlists, expand capacity to serve younger adults with physical disabilities statewide and meet increasing demand;
- Delay or prevent a portion of consumers becoming eligible for the full Medicaid, and offer an alternative to those who may otherwise be Medicaid-eligible but who choose not to receive all Medicaid services;
- Retain a small, state-funded OPI program to assist consumers who are not eligible for Medicaid programs; 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:**

Adults, age 18 and older, who meet the following criteria would be eligible for OPI-E:

- Be assessed as meeting Service Priority Level 1 through 18;
- Have income no greater than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$4,163/individual, \$5,637/couple per month); 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;
- Does not currently receive Medicaid; and
- Exempt from estate recovery.

The original OPI program would maintain eligibility for consumers not otherwise eligible to receive Medicaid-funded services.

## **Program Package:**

For OPI-E, individuals would receive the following services to support themselves, as well as any other services defined in OAR 411-032-0010:

- In-home support or personal care services (in-home services to maintain, strengthen or restore an individual's functioning in one's home);
- Chore services (i.e., heavy housework or yard work provided on a one-time or intermittent basis to assure health and safety);
- Adult day services (non-residential community-based programs, providing services for part of the day);
- Registered nurse services (i.e., one-time or intermittent assessment, service planning, medication monitoring, provider training and education);
- Assistive technology and minor consumer home modifications;
- Emergency response systems;
- Home delivered meals;
- Services to support community caregivers and strengthen the natural support system of individuals;
- Evidence-based health promotion services (programs to help individuals adopt healthy behaviors, improve health status, or reduce use of health services);
- Options counseling (counseling to support informed decision making on services based on strengths, needs, and preferences);
- Assisted transportation options that allow individuals to live at home and access the full range of community resources; and
- Case management and service coordination (service designed to individualize and integrate social and health care options for the consumer).

Individuals in the original OPI program would continue to receive the services defined in OAR 411-032-0010 and any new services provided in the 1115 waiver.