

Human Services Legislative Summary | 2026

Regular Session of the 84th
Oregon Legislative Assembly



From the Director



The 2026 session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly concluded on March 6, and I want to take a moment to share its key outcomes for the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the people we serve.

This was a session defined by two significant challenges: the need to secure resources to implement [sweeping federal changes](#) under House Resolution 1 (HR 1), and the need to navigate a statewide budget shortfall requiring reductions across all Oregon agencies. I'm pleased to report that ODHS emerged from the session in a relatively strong position on both fronts.

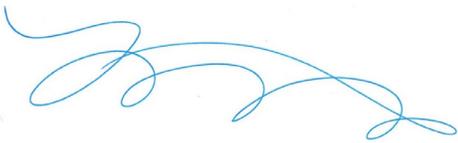
HR 1 represents one of the most consequential shifts to federal safety net programs in a generation, with far-reaching changes to SNAP and Medicaid that will affect hundreds of thousands of Oregonians. **Our top legislative priority for 2026 was [securing the necessary funding and staffing to implement these changes and minimize harm to the people we serve](#).** Lawmakers heard us, and the resources they approved this session will allow us to meet new federal requirements while continuing to serve Oregonians with the care and accuracy they deserve.

ODHS, like all state agencies, also absorbed reductions as part of Oregon's response to the statewide shortfall. I am grateful that we were able to navigate these reductions without any layoffs or cuts to services. You can read more about the reductions, as well as the HR 1 package and other key legislative outcomes, in the pages that follow.

Securing resources for HR 1 implementation in a challenging budget environment required sustained, coordinated effort, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who made it possible. Governor Kotek's leadership and partnership were instrumental at every stage of the session. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the lawmakers, and particularly to the members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, who took the time to understand the real-world impacts on the people we serve and entrusted ODHS with the resources we need to meet the moment. To our community and labor partners: your advocacy and engagement helped ensure legislators understood what was truly at stake, and we are deeply grateful for your collaboration throughout this process. And finally, to the ODHS staff who worked in close

partnership with the Legislature, Governor's Office, and community — thank you. This was a collective effort, and its success reflects your dedication to people in Oregon.

The work ahead is significant, and I won't minimize that. But I have every confidence in the staff and partners who will help bring the Legislature's investments to life in the months ahead.



Liesl M. Wendt

Director, Oregon Department of Human Services

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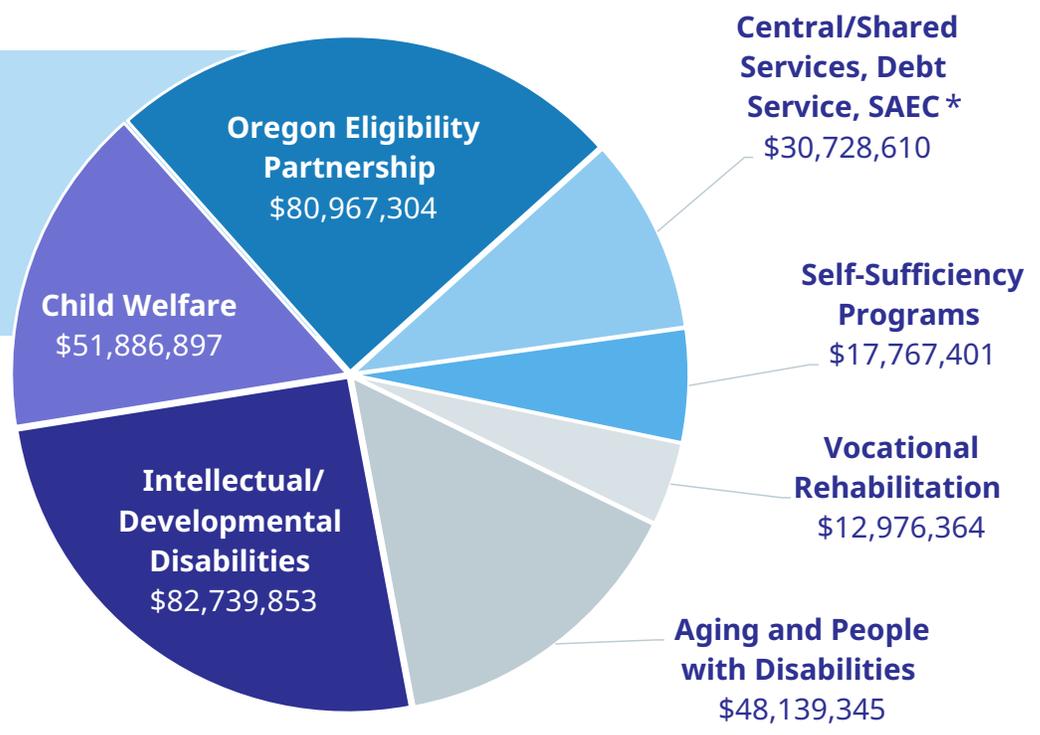
Budget Summary

[House Bill 5204](#), the 2026 session's statewide budget bill, adjusted ODHS' 2025-27 budget by **\$325.2 million General Fund (GF)**, representing a **4.3% GF increase** over the budget the Legislature adopted during the 2025 session.



	General Fund	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
ODHS Legislatively Adopted Budget (Jul 2025)	\$7,456,846,684	\$1,304,300,928	\$14,244,129,234	\$23,005,276,846
HB 5204 Changes	\$325,205,774	\$55,793,755	\$361,917,250	\$742,916,779
ODHS Legislatively Approved Budget (Feb 2026)	\$7,782,052,458	\$1,360,094,683	\$14,606,046,484	\$23,748,193,625

HB 5204 Adjustments by Program (General Fund)



*State assessments and enterprise-wide costs

Budget Highlights

HR 1 implementation

The most consequential adjustment for ODHS was the addition of **\$111 million General Fund* and 392 positions** to begin implementing HR 1, a federal resolution passed in July 2025 that makes far-reaching changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid — mandating more frequent eligibility checks, creating new eligibility restrictions, and significantly increasing costs for the state. The dollars will cover:

- **More eligibility staff along with technology upgrades** to handle HR 1's increased SNAP screening and verification requirements while improving accuracy.
- **Staffing and other resources to handle verifications and exemptions** related to new Medicaid work requirements.
- **Higher SNAP administrative costs** that HR1 requires states to take on.
- **Updating SNAP EBT cards using smart chip technology** — a much-needed security improvement that will help protect Oregonians' essential food benefits.**

Budget rebalance

The Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee approved ODHS' first financial rebalance of the 2025-27 biennium, resulting in a net increase of **\$91.1 million and a net of 10 new positions**. The rebalance primarily reflects growth in caseload compared to spring 2025 forecasts as well as cost-per-case and Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) changes that have emerged since the 2025-27 budget was adopted last year.

*Unless otherwise specified, all figures are state General Fund (vs. federal or other funds).

**While improving EBT card security is not federally required as part of HR 1 implementation, HR 1 increases the urgency of completing these upgrades now, before the state's required administrative cost share jumps in October 2026.

Additional increases include **\$17.4 million** to cover compensation increases for more than 3,200 ODHS workers resulting from a 2024 classification study, and **\$7.8 million** to cover a federal penalty related to the state's 2023 SNAP payment error rate.

Budget reductions

House Bill 5204 also identifies reductions for state agencies as part of Oregon's broader effort to address a statewide budget shortfall. At ODHS and across other agencies, these reductions are drawn primarily from job vacancy savings and a hiring pause — tools that allow lawmakers to balance the budget without cutting services or eliminating positions. Additional reductions in the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) and ODDS reflect updated cost estimates and program adjustments, including delayed implementation of Agency with Choice. Taken together, **ODHS' reductions amount to \$34.5 million.**

Additional adjustments

The subcommittee also approved:

- **A \$74.7 million appropriation to cover the cost of collective bargaining agreements** for the more than 26,000 personal support workers and home care workers who serve an estimated 32,000 Oregonians monthly.
- **\$2 million in one-time grants to refugee resettlement agencies and culturally specific community organizations** to provide financial assistance, case management, and navigation services to lawfully present immigrants and refugees who lost SNAP and/or Medicaid eligibility under HR 1. While the grant funding cannot fully offset the loss of these essential benefits, it does provide critical transitional support as families work to gain Lawful Permanent Resident status and re-establish eligibility.
- **A one-time \$3.5 million increase to Self-Sufficiency Programs** to maintain distributions to the Domestic Violence Fund and the Sexual Assault Victims Fund – funds traditionally supported by the Criminal Fines Account, which has recently seen lower-than-anticipated revenue.

Key Policy Bills

The following are key bills passed during the 2026 regular legislative session that will influence the policy landscape moving forward, with direct or indirect impacts on ODHS and the and the people we serve.

- [House Bill \(HB\) 4016](#) requires public contractors to certify and maintain tax compliance in order to execute a public contract. While not exclusively a human services bill, it affects the administrative environment in which ODHS engages external vendors and contractors — a significant consideration given the agency’s reliance on private vendors to deliver health care, social services, and support. The new certification requirement may affect which organizations are eligible to hold or renew contracts, and ODHS will need to update its procurement processes accordingly to verify tax compliance and ensure adherence to the law.
- [HB 4040](#), a wide-ranging healthcare bill primarily impacting the Oregon Health Authority, includes one provision relevant to ODHS: it allows parents who provide services to their children with I/DD through the Children’s Extraordinary Needs Waiver to do so as Personal Support Workers, rather than requiring them to be employed by an agency provider as previously required. ODHS requested no funding for the technology changes needed to implement this provision, so implementation will likely be delayed as other technological priorities are addressed.
- [HB 4057](#) directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to provide information on publicly funded childcare programs and resources to individuals eligible for the Employment Related Day Care Subsidy (ERDC), and authorizes ODHS to share this information on DELIC’s behalf. The bill aims to help address DELIC’s projected budget deficit and reduce the waitlist for ERDC-eligible families by connecting them with other available publicly funded childcare options. However, it does not address the ongoing shortage of childcare access in the 19 counties currently considered childcare deserts.
- [HB 4115](#) makes several technical and operational changes to background check and provider enrollment processes affecting both ODHS and OHA. The bill is intended to streamline background checks and reduce administrative burden on providers and agencies. Additionally, it will improve workforce mobility across care settings while maintaining safety protections for vulnerable populations.

- [HB 4121](#) establishes a statewide emergency preparedness office and framework for coordinating emergency management across Oregon. For ODHS, the bill updates the definition of resilience hubs and networks — transitioning to the term “resilience networks” — and broadens the types of supports ODHS can provide within those networks. It also brings ODHS into a data sharing agreement tied to relevant grant programs and expands the agency’s role in the grant application process in coordination with the Office of Emergency Management.
- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1532](#) is an omnibus bill with several provisions affecting ODHS programs. It gives APD additional time to implement safety and regulatory changes stemming from SB 739 (2025), while providing APD greater discretion in determining when a license condition is warranted. The bill also directs ODDS to establish a differentiated rate for agencies that employ caregivers who live with the individuals they serve. Finally, it expands Child Welfare’s authority to place children out of state in specific circumstances, including placement in an out-of-state relative foster home, placement in an out-of-state eating disorder treatment program, and placement of a Tribal child in a setting approved by the child’s Tribal leadership.
- [SB 1533](#) aligns with ODHS’ goal of protecting youth in foster care and ensuring clarity surrounding their rights by modifying the Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights and the Oregon Foster Children’s Sibling Bill of Rights.
- [SB 1535](#) gives the Early Learning Council the authority to modify the priority access currently granted to families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidy program. Under current statute, families receiving TANF bypass the ERDC waitlist — a provision established by HB 3073 (2021). However, high demand and limited funding have strained the ERDC program’s budget. SB 1535 makes that waitlist bypass optional rather than mandatory, giving the council the flexibility to temporarily pause it when needed to control caseload growth and keep the program within budget.
- [SB 1538](#) requires district school boards to admit all students to all schools and instructional programs of the school district. The bill codifies students as a protected class within the school system.

- [SB 1594](#) requires the Department of Justice to consult with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement when the department develops, reviews or updates model policies intended to limit immigration enforcement at public facilities. OIRA will have a more prominent role in advising on policy across different state agencies.



Tracked Bills at a Glance*

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4007	Defines “powered micromobility device” for the vehicle code.	June 5, 2026
HB 4012	Directs the Construction Contractors Board to work with the Bureau of Labor and Industries on a targeted assessment of unlicensed labor use at construction sites.	June 5, 2026
HB 4016	Requires public contractors to certify and maintain tax compliance to execute a public contract.	June 5, 2026
HB 4021	Changes effective date and notice requirements for certain permanent agency rules.	June 5, 2026
HB 4022	Establishes the Oregon Imagination Library Program to provide monthly free books to eligible children and support literacy and school readiness.	January 1, 2027
HB 4033	Transfers the ORVID volunteer database from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.	Upon passage
HB 4035	Expands eligibility for cities and Metro to amend their urban growth boundaries.	Upon passage

*This list is limited to passed bills identified as high-priority by ODHS.

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4036	Creates the Housing Opportunity, Longevity and Durability Fund to use Article XI-Q bonds for preserving at-risk affordable housing.	Upon passage
HB 4037	Adjusts certain terms of the revolving loan program for cities and counties to fund affordable housing projects.	June 5, 2026
HB 4039	Requires the Oregon Health Authority to establish a transparent, data-driven process for coordinated care organization capitation rates.	Upon passage
HB 4040	Modifies the requirements for screening a hospital patient for presumptive eligibility for financial assistance.	Upon passage
HB 4043	Authorizes the State Treasurer to issue Article XI-Q general obligation bonds to finance renovation or expansion of courthouses.	January 1, 2027
HB 4045	Requires social media platforms to respond to stalking or domestic violence warrants within 72 hours, and other providers within five business days.	Upon passage
HB 4047	Requires the Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules allowing hospitals to apply for a rural emergency hospital license.	June 5, 2026

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4053	Establishes the Emergency Medical Services Program Fund.	June 5, 2026
HB 4057	Requires the Department of Early Learning and Care to provide standardized information on all public early learning programs to ERDC applicants and waitlisted families.	Upon passage
HB 4060	Exempts large facilities over one million square feet from the fluorescent lamp sales ban until January 1, 2030.	Upon passage
HB 4068	Modifies the definition of “transition aged youth residential treatment home”.	Upon passage
HB 4069	Requires behavioral health employers to implement a written safety plan for employee physical safety.	July 1, 2027
HB 4070	Requires the Oregon Health Authority and coordinated care organizations to ensure behavioral health access and limits are comparable to medical and surgical care in Medicaid.	June 5, 2026
HB 4075	Requires the State Treasurer to use up to \$44 million from the Unclaimed Property and Estates Fund to guarantee a loan made to a rural hospital for financial stabilization.	Upon passage

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4079	Requires school and higher education boards to adopt policies for responding to federal immigration authorities on campus.	September 30, 2026
HB 4082	Allows cities or Metro to add sites for manufactured housing or affordable senior housing to the temporary UGB addition program.	June 5, 2026
HB 4083	Requires the Oregon Health Authority to adopt a uniform behavioral health provider credentialing process and select an electronic system by June 30, 2027.	June 5, 2026
HB 4088	Declares this state's policy to protect engagement in certain activities relating to reproductive health care and gender-affirming treatment.	Upon passage
HB 4089	Modifies the crime of theft of services to include partial payments.	January 1, 2027
HB 4092	Prohibits retailers and retail platforms from selling or advertising child safety systems that fail to meet federal or state Department of Transportation standards.	January 1, 2027
HB 4111	Prohibits using a party's or witness's immigration status as evidence in civil cases.	June 5, 2026

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4114	Creates a civil cause of action against individuals who enter property without a warrant or legal exception.	Upon passage
HB 4115	Provides that a criminal records check on certain caregivers shall last for three years, subject to exceptions.	June 5, 2026
HB 4121	Creates authority to coordinate emergency management.	January 1, 2027
HB 4123	Limits the circumstances under which a landlord may disclose confidential information.	June 5, 2026
HB 4124	Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study Oregon's post-secondary system and recommend a superior institutional framework.	Upon passage
HB 4127	Requires the Oregon Health Authority to create a payment mechanism for nonprofit reproductive health providers ineligible for federal Medicaid funds.	Upon passage
HB 4128	Prohibits covered entities from buying single-family homes unless listed publicly for at least 90 days.	January 1, 2027

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4132	Requires the director to be a veteran who has received a discharge or release under other than dishonorable conditions.	July 1, 2026
HB 4138	Requires law enforcement agencies to require officers to wear uniforms with specified identifying information.	Upon passage
HB 4149	Requires school districts to adopt policies for immediate enrollment, placement, and services for homeless students.	January 1, 2027
HB 4153	Allows counties to approve farm stores as nonfarm use on lands zoned for farm use.	January 1, 2027
HB 4154	Requires the compilation of data about student attendance.	Upon passage
HB 4156	Modifies the requirements for Medicaid supplemental reimbursements paid to emergency medical services providers.	Upon passage
HB 4157	Allows certain hearsay statements in sex crime cases even if the declarant is available to testify.	June 5, 2026

Bill	Summary	Effective
HB 4177	Restates the serial communications prohibitions for public meetings law purposes.	June 5, 2026
HB 5204	Establishes and modifies certain General Fund biennial appropriations to state agencies and the Emergency Board.	Upon passage
SB 1510	Updates terminology for certain multinational corporate income to match federal law.	June 5, 2026
SB 1512	Expands the goals and purposes of the Prosperity 10,000 Program.	January 1, 2027
SB 1518	Clarifies the meaning of “companionship services” for purposes of minimum wage and overtime requirements.	January 1, 2027
SB 1519	Changes the formula for determining permanent and temporary total disability compensation.	January 1, 2027
SB 1532	Adds requirements for imposing license conditions on residential and long-term care facilities after immediate jeopardy findings.	Upon passage

Bill	Summary	Effective
SB 1533	Modifies the Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights and the Oregon Foster Children’s Sibling Bill of Rights.	Upon passage
SB 1535	Allows the Early Learning Council to modify TANF family priority for the ERDC subsidy program.	June 5, 2026
SB 1538	Requires district school boards to admit all students to all schools of the school district.	July 1, 2026
SB 1546	Requires AI companion platforms to notify users when they are interacting with AI if it could be mistaken for a human.	January 1, 2027
SB 1567	Authorizes the Housing and Community Services Department to fund mixed income housing.	June 5, 2026
SB 1568	Establishes doula coverage levels for Medicaid and health plans covering pregnancy and childbirth.	Upon passage
SB 1570	Requires hospitals to adopt policies for responding to law enforcement and designate nonpublic areas.	June 5, 2026

Bill	Summary	Effective
SB 1571	Adds a definition of “nicotine” and expands the definition of “tobacco products.”	June 5, 2026
SB 1575	Adds new requirements for obtaining an initial license to operate and maintain a hospice program.	Upon passage
SB 1576	Requires building code rules to meet Fair Housing Act accessibility requirements.	June 5, 2026
SB 1594	Requires the Department of Justice to consult the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement on model policies limiting immigration enforcement at public facilities.	Upon passage
SB 1595	Requires licensing boards to publish licensure guidance and provide culturally responsive staff training by January 1, 2028.	Upon passage
SB 1598	Requires certain health plans to cover preventive services per federal rules as of June 30, 2025, and future Public Health Officer–recommended immunizations.	Upon passage

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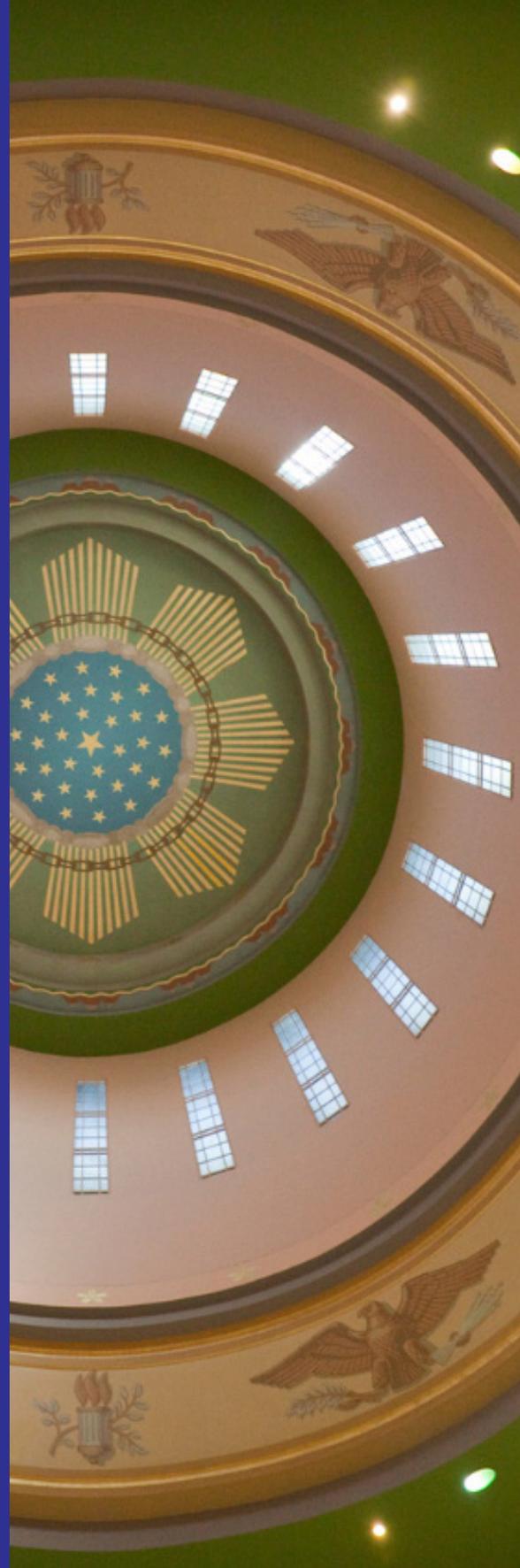
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