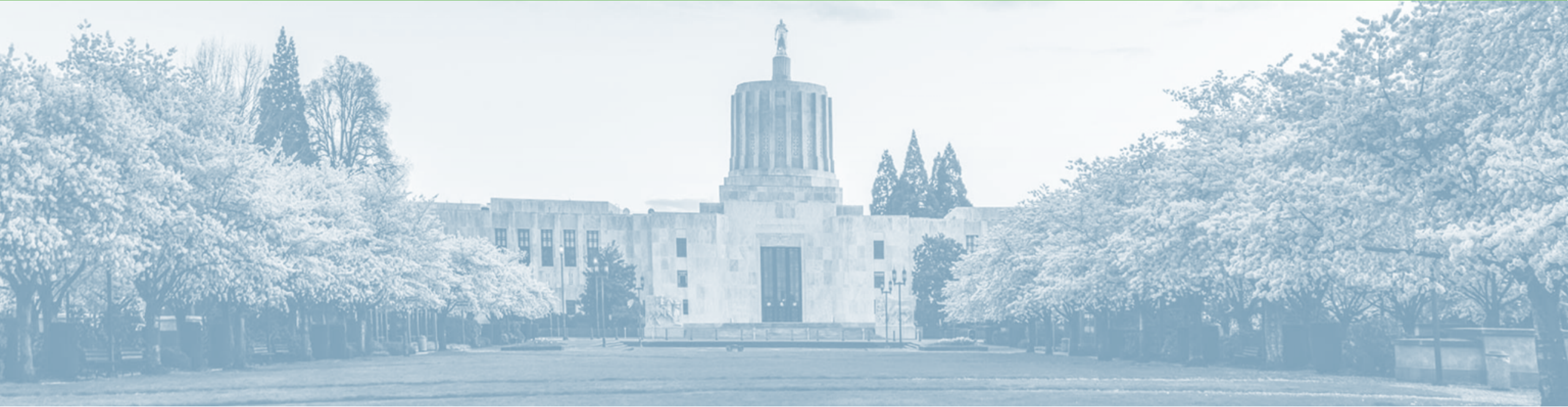


March 19, 2026



Vocational Rehabilitation

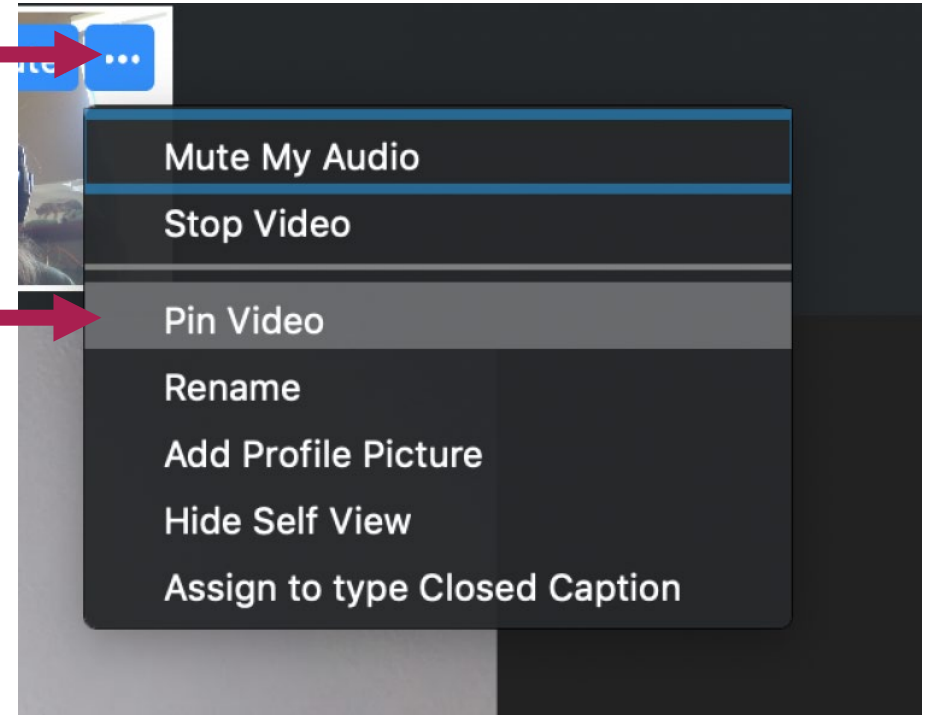
2026 Legislative Session overview and planning for the 2027-2029 budget

Accessibility and housekeeping

Pinning video

Click the three dots on the interpreter's picture

Click "pin video"

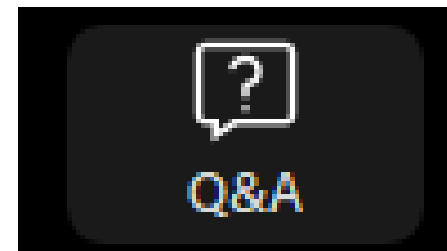


Accessing captions

Click on the link in the chat to access the real-time caption livestream.

Ask a question

Use the Q&A feature to ask questions



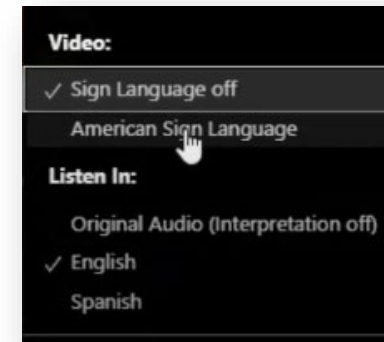
ASL Interpreter in Zoom

1. Click on the “Globe Interpretation” icon in the toolbar.

- If you don't see the icon, you might need to click the three dots ...



2. Choose “American Sign Language (ASL)” from the list.



3. The interpreter will appear in a movable pop-out window.

- You can position the pop-out window anywhere on your screen throughout the meeting.

Today's goals

Build shared understanding of how **VR's budget is built** and how it fits in with the larger Oregon Department of Human Services budget.

Explore risks to VR services and what choices VR may need to make.

Ensure partners and Tribal Nations know when and how they can provide input in each step in the budget process.

Learn from you what matters most as we develop the budget.



Agenda

1. How VR fits into the Human Services budget
2. 2026 session overview
3. How Oregon's budget is built
4. Budget outlook and the Governor's priorities for 2027-29 biennium
5. Getting your feedback



How VR fits into the Human Services budget



Serving Oregonians: ODHS Programs

Aging and People with Disabilities



Services for older adults and people with disabilities that help support daily living, long-term care, safety, independence, and aging with dignity.

Child Welfare



Services that support the well-being of children, youth and families, including family preservation, foster care, adoption, and child safety.

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services



Planning and services that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live, work, and participate in their communities.

Oregon Eligibility Partnership



In-person, online and telephone help applying for and maintaining medical, food, cash assistance, and childcare benefits.

Self-Sufficiency Programs



Services that provide access to food, financial assistance, and housing supports that help individuals and families move toward long-term stability.

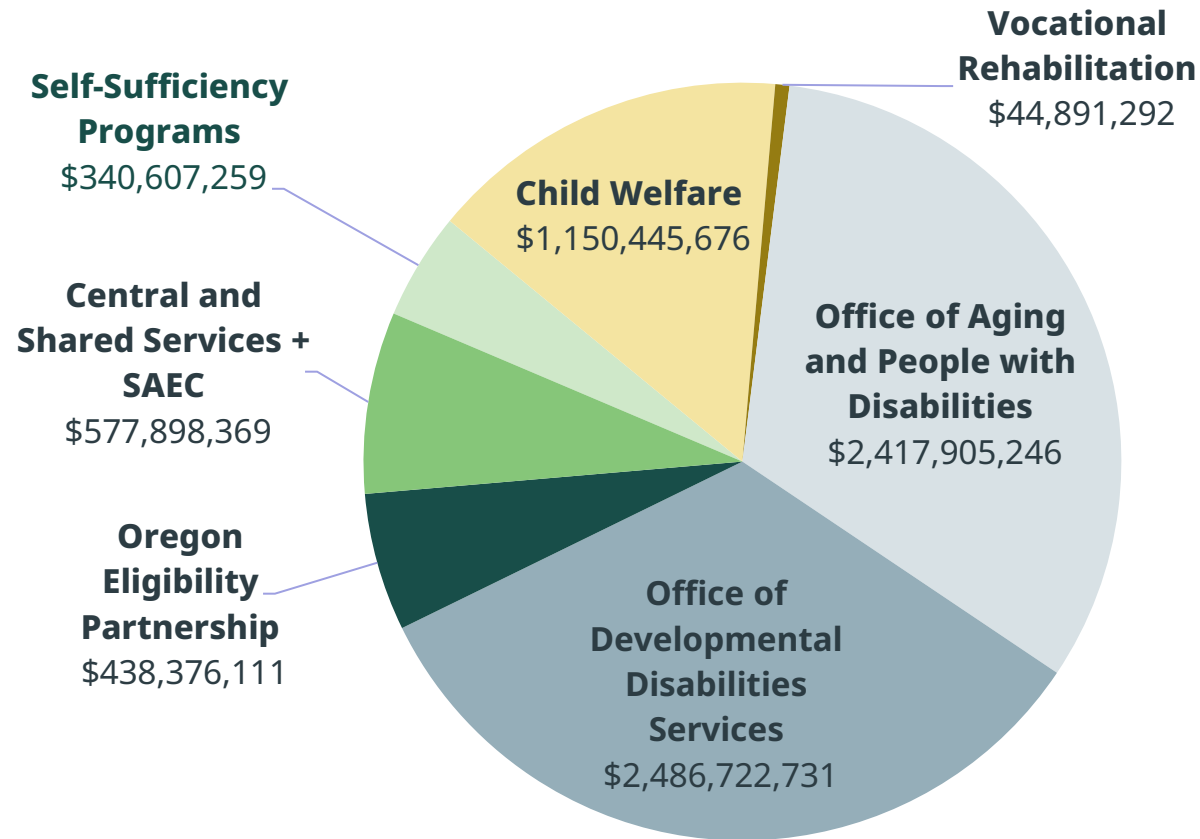
Vocational Rehabilitation



Services for people with disabilities to achieve employment goals and pursue greater independence through work.

Our current ODHS budget: state funds

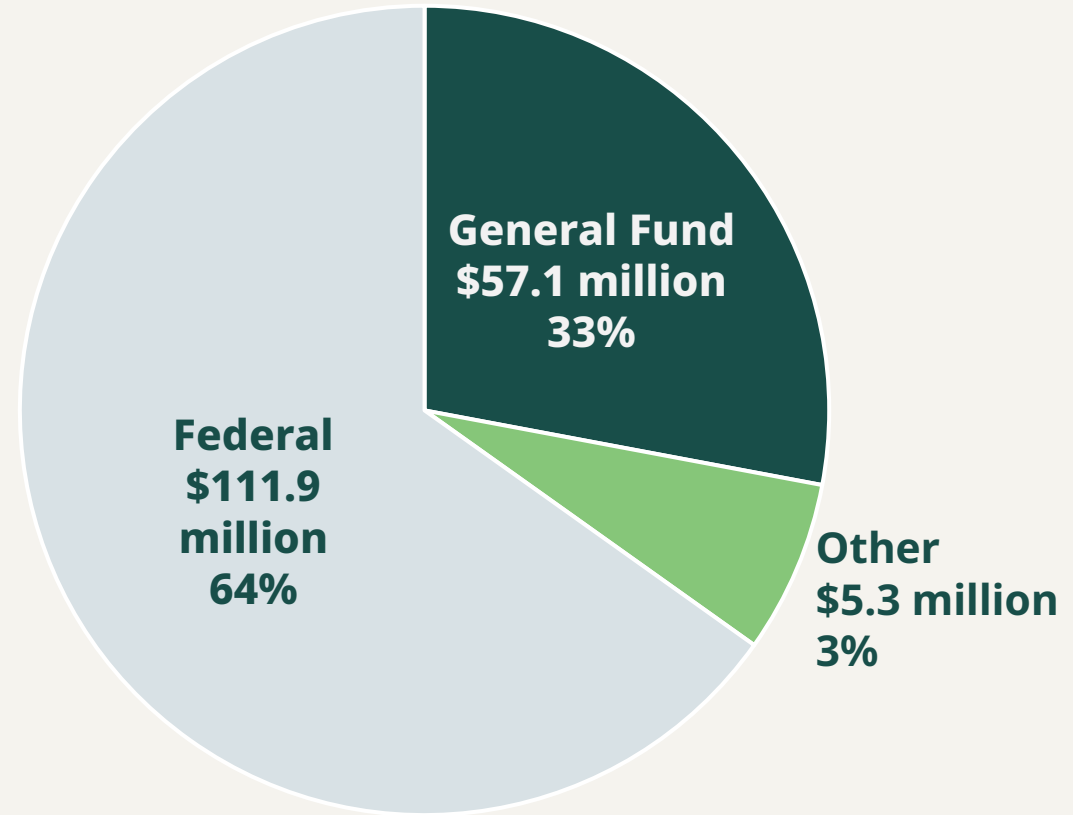
2025-2027 Legislatively Adopted Budget by Program



SAEC = State Assessments and Enterprise-wide Costs

VR's 2025-27 budget

Total: \$174.3 million



2026 Legislative Session overview

New laws with potential to affect
people with disabilities



2026 Legislative session

New ODHS Government Relations liaison for VR: Margie Salazar

Session details:

- Session length: Feb. 2 – March 6 (35 days)
- Unlike previous short sessions, many bills introduced

Work-related bills

[SB 1512 Enrolled](#)

- Continues Prosperity 10,000 workforce development program

[SB 1507 Enrolled](#)

- Expands Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for 200,000 Oregon families

[HB 4132 B Engrossed](#)

- Strengthens Oregon's veteran's services by establishing suicide prevention and workforce training grant program within the Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Other bills of interest

HB 4027 Enrolled

- Establishes stable funding framework for the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI)

HB 4013 Enrolled

- Specifies federal rules that apply to BOLI when making rules governing the hours a minor can work

HB 4154 Enrolled

- Requires Oregon Dept. of Education to collect, analyze and report student attendance data. Data will include students with consistent attendance and those who are chronically absent.

The Budget Puzzle

A step-by-step look at how the Oregon state budget is built



Oregon's biennial state budget

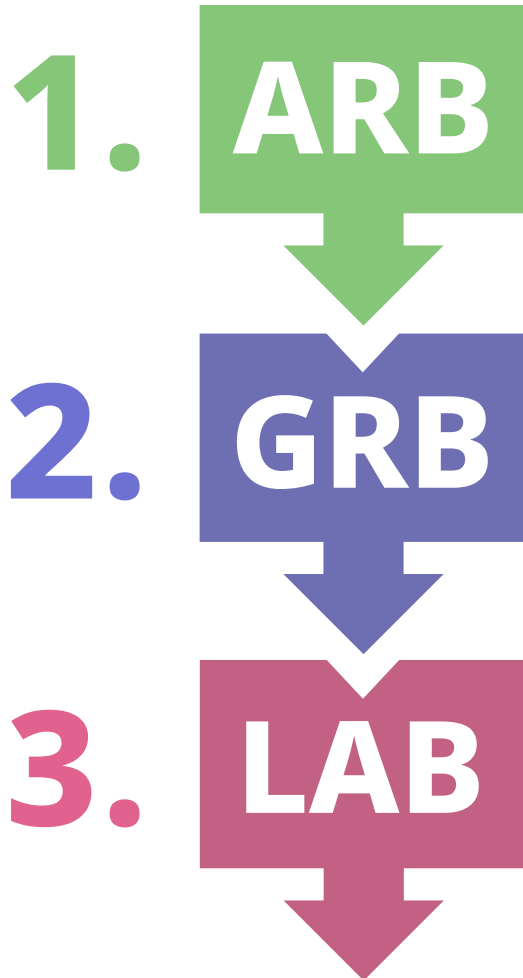
The state budget is Oregon's **two-year (biennial) plan** for how public money is used.

- Determines **how much ODHS can spend** to support children, families, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- ODHS can **only spend what's approved by the Legislature.**

Many people shape the budget, including **ODHS programs, the Governor, and the Legislature**, but the Legislature makes the final decisions.



Budget development in Oregon



AGENCY REQUEST BUDGET (ARB)

- ODHS solicits input from community, partners, and Tribes.
- Ongoing policy and workgroup products are often included in the ODHS Agency Request Budget.
- May include final Policy Options Packages (POPs).

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET (GRB)

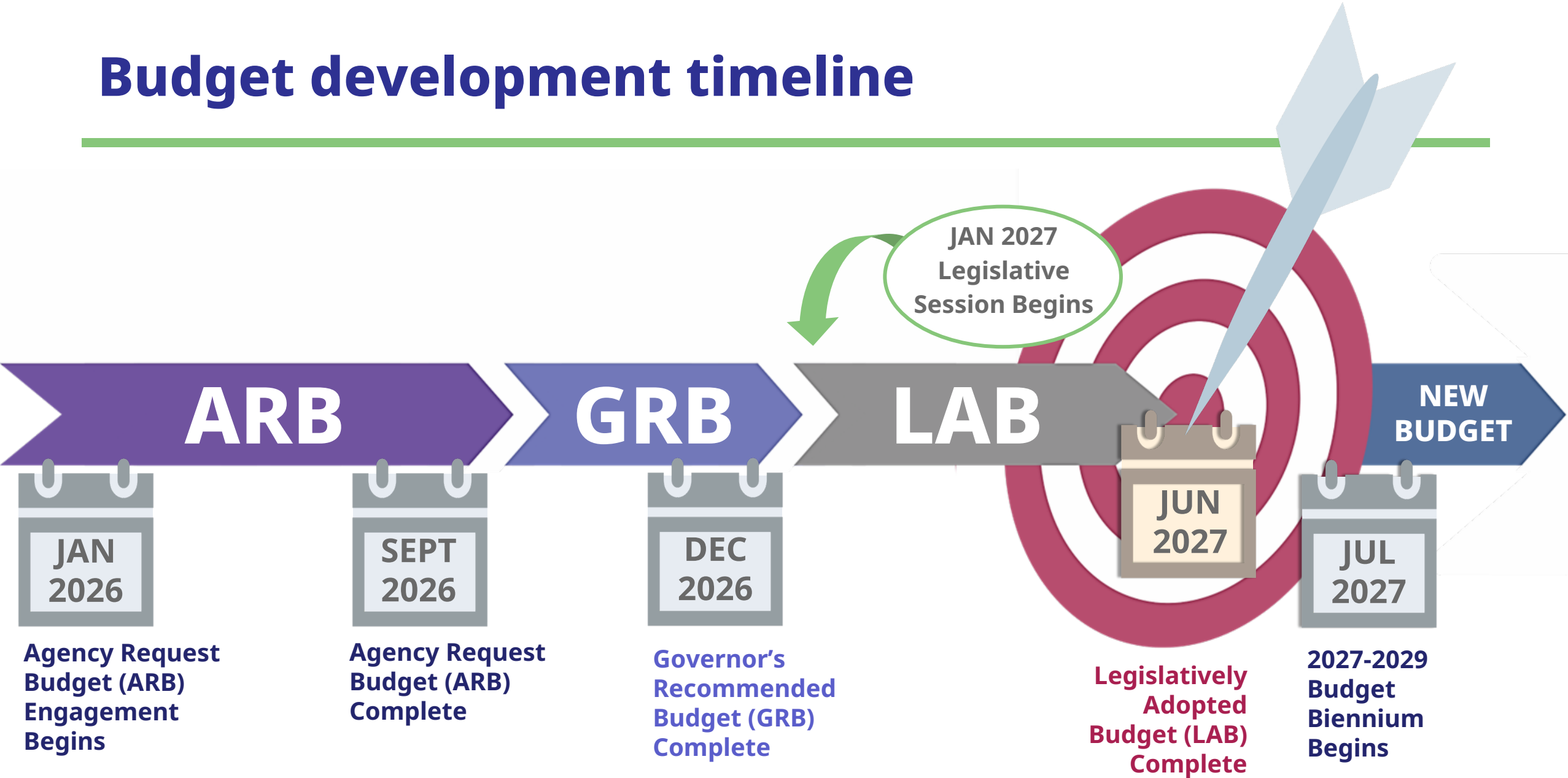
- The Governor's budget priorities are reflected.
- Includes program and policy work and ODHS input provided through the Governor's Policy Advisors.

LEGISLATIVELY ADOPTED BUDGET (LAB)

- Legislature holds public hearings on ODHS bills and the budget.
- Testimony can be provided in person, online, or in writing for legislative consideration.
- Individuals and groups can meet with legislators.



Budget development timeline



New ideas: Policy Options Packages (POPs)

Policy Option Packages (POPs) are the way ODHS formally asks for anything new or different.

- New or expanded services
- Changes to programs
- Technology improvements
- Policy changes
- Funding for legislative ideas



Developing POPs: internal steps



1

ODHS Programs

identify needs based on expertise and priorities from community/Tribes

2

ODHS Budget Office

reviews ideas and analyzes cost and fiscal feasibility

3

ODHS Executive Leadership

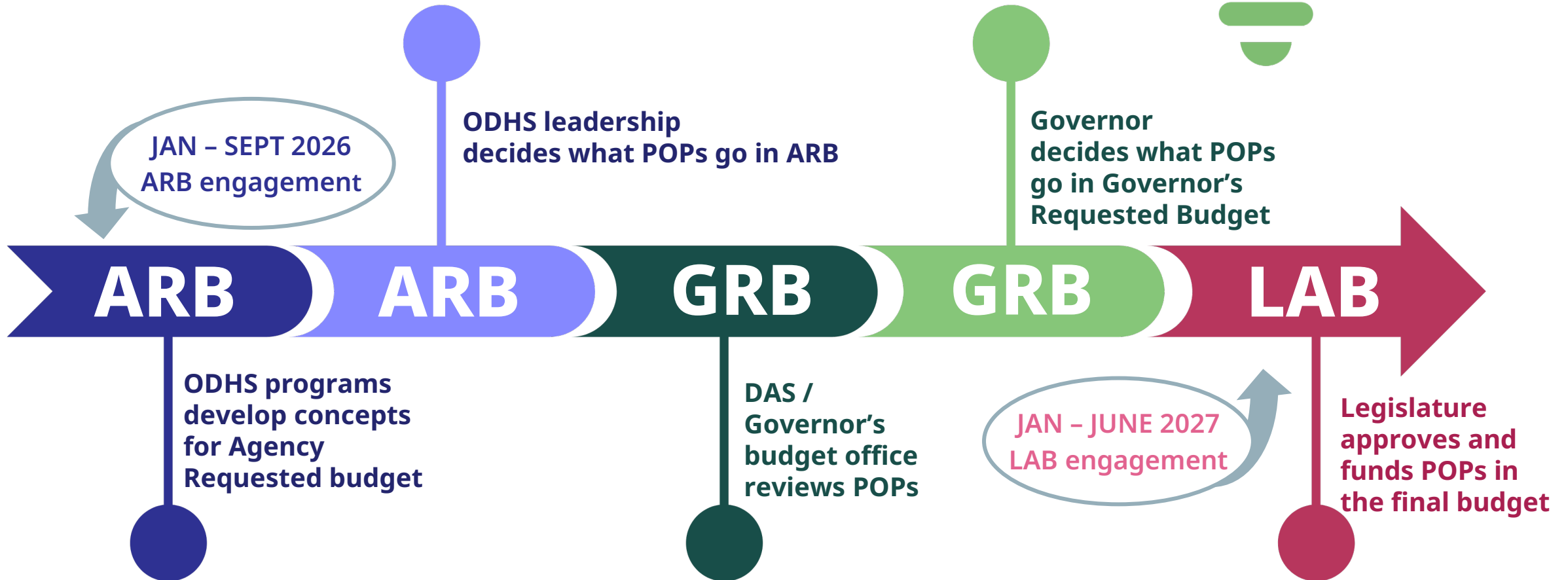
decides which POPs to move forward

4

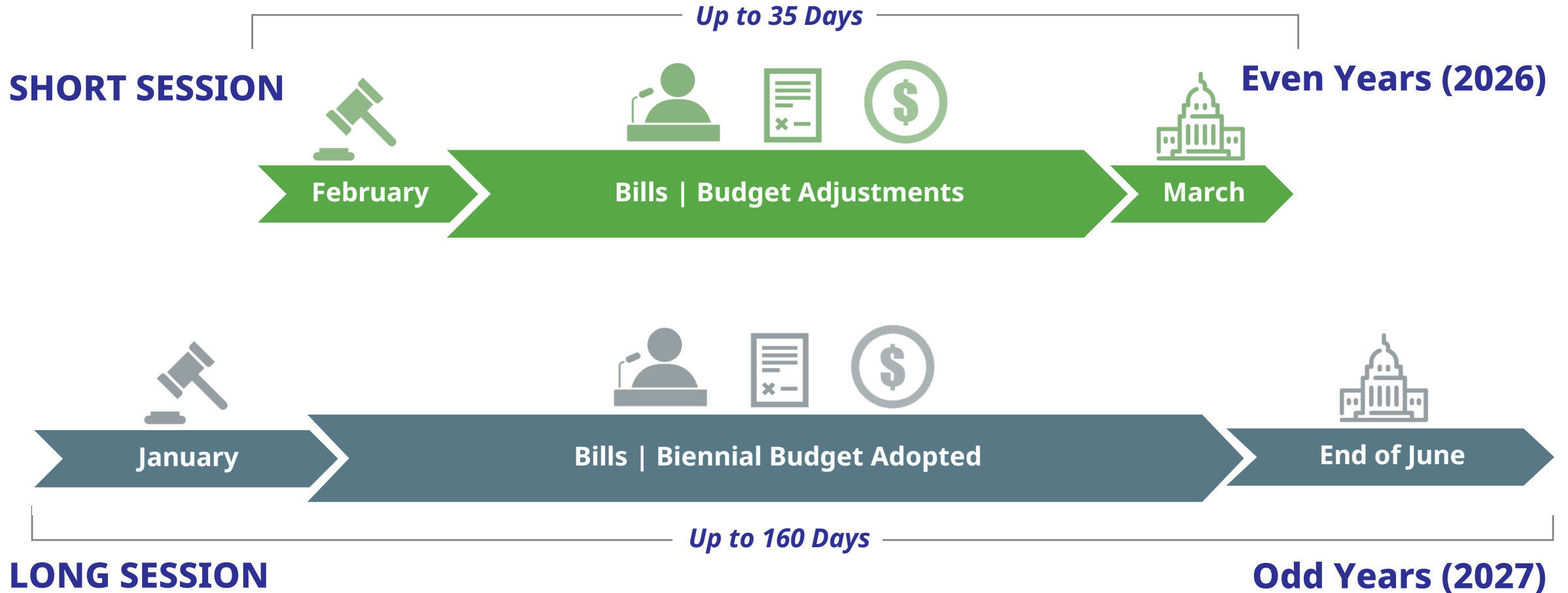
Department of Administrative Services (DAS)

Governor's budget office reviews the POPs

POPs: Who decides and when?



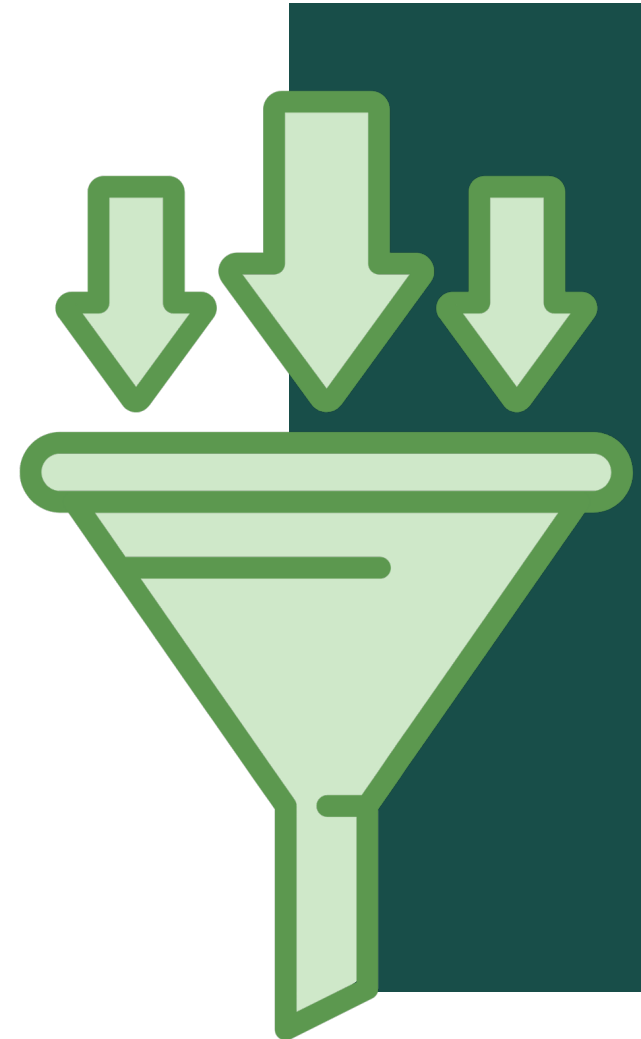
When the Legislature meets in session



How a Legislative session unfolds

Whether short or long, legislative sessions follow a general pattern:

- **Early session:** proposals are introduced
- **Throughout the session:** committees review and narrow proposals
- **Late session:** budget decisions and final negotiations



Budget Outlook

Parameters for building the
2027- 2029 budget



Oregon's fiscal reality

Guidance from the Governor's Office is clear:

- POPs must be revenue-neutral
- Expect no expansion funding
- Tradeoffs may be required to fund priorities
- Budget must align with Governor priorities



VR's budget outlook for 2027-2029

- VR will be managing people coming off the waitlist as resources become available
- Inflation: increasing cost per case
- Flat federal funding
- Federal changes
- Partner capacity



Prioritizing people in a challenging landscape

- As we navigate difficult tradeoffs, ODHS remains committed **to minimizing impacts to the people we serve.**
- Our focus will continue to be on preserving Oregonians' **access to essential services and supports.**



Your input matters

Even without new money, you can help us:

- Understand ripple effects
- Identify strain across programs and partner networks
- Protect against unintended equity harm



Gathering your feedback

What **principles or values** should guide difficult choices as we develop VR's budget?

Where do you see opportunities to **improve efficiency, reduce duplication or better use existing resources** while maintaining service quality and safety?

What **ripple effects** should VR understand?

Anything else VR should consider?



Feedback form

Scan the QR code with
your Smartphone
camera to access the
[budget planning
feedback form](#)



VR 2027–2029 budget planning feedback form

As we begin to develop the 2027-2029 budget, we are asking for your feedback on considerations, opportunities and ripple effects.

Hi, Diane. When you submit this form, the owner will see your name and email address.

1. What principles or values should guide difficult choices as we develop VR's budget?

Enter your answer

2. Where do you see opportunities to improve efficiency, reduce duplication or better use existing resources while maintaining service quality and safety?

Enter your answer

3. What ripple effects should VR understand?

Enter your answer

Stay engaged



- Sign up for the ODHS [partner newsletter](#).
- Sign up for [news alerts](#) from ODHS.
- Visit our federal updates [webpage](#).
- Visit our SNAP work rules webpage in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



- Email the [Community Engagement](#) team.



- Follow us on social media.



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Oregon Department
of Human Services

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services