

# Frequently Asked Questions: Foster Home Licensing and Certification Transition for Adult and Child Foster Providers

Dec. 1, 2025

## Context

During the 2025 Legislative session, the Oregon Legislature approved a change that affects the licensing and certification of foster providers for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Oregon. With each budget, programs suggest investments and possible savings. The budget balances investments and savings. With that process, the Legislature's budget decisions can change how we operate. As a result of this current change, all I/DD foster care licensing and certification duties will transition from community developmental disabilities programs (CDDPs) to ODDS on Jan. 1, 2026.

We understand that this transition will come with some confusion and challenges. We also know that all of us — ODDS, CDDPs and foster providers — are committed to navigating the change with a focus on seamless services for those we serve. These FAQs have information that adult and child foster providers need to know to prepare for this transition. The questions arranged are in sections by topic:

- [Communications](#)
- [ODDS support](#)
- [Transition planning](#)
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## What is not changing?

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Even though licensing and certification duties are changing, many important things will stay the same. Here are a few things you can continue to count on:

- **Rates or service fees:** CDDPs will continue to complete the SNAP rate assessment for DD eligibility individuals.
- **Case management and service planning:** CDDPs will continue to provide case management for the individuals in your home.
- **Investigations:**
  - CDDPs will continue to complete investigations for AFH settings.
- OTIS will continue to complete investigations for CFH settings

## Communications

### How will ODDS keep us informed?

Please check your email regularly for our communications and meeting information. We will also communicate with you in the following ways:

- **Transmittals:** All policy changes will be shared through transmittals.
- **ODDS-hosted meetings:** ODDS will be hosting regional meetings for providers in September and November via Teams. You will receive an invitation in your email to attend these meetings. If you are not able to attend, you will still get an updated copy of the FAQs and a recap of the meeting via email.
- **Website:** [Find information and links to resources on our website.](#)
- **CDDP-hosted meetings for providers:** If your CDDP hosts meetings for the foster homes they currently license or certify, a representative from ODDS will attend.

We share how to contact ODDS with questions and information [at the end of this document.](#)

## ODDS support

### What will the relationship between foster providers and ODDS look like?

ODDS wants to work directly with foster providers and build strong relationships. Our goal is work together as a team. We want you to have all the information you need to be successful in your role as a provider.

The ODDS Licensing Unit's job is to make sure foster homes are safe and follow the rules that protect people in care. When visit your home, our main goal is to partner with you to make sure everyone in your home is safe and supported. If we give a citation, it's not about punishment. A citation gives you the information you need to make positive changes. It's a way to track and solve problems before they become bigger. We will work with you, so every individual has the best and safest home possible.

### **My licensor/certifier gave me guidance when I needed it, will that continue?**

Yes, you will still get guidance in several ways:

- **Email box:** ODDS has a central email box for foster licensing [dd.licensingfoster@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:dd.licensingfoster@odhs.oregon.gov). You can email your questions there anytime. Staff will check it during regular hours and answer in the order they get the emails.
- **Technical assistance:** During visits to your home, licensors and certifiers will help you understand the rules. If you need ideas on how to come into compliance with a rule, your licensor or certifier can work with you to give examples.
- **Provider meetings:** In 2026, ODDS will have regular meetings for providers. We will share trends and help you understand what is expected. When we schedule these meetings, we will send you information on how to join.
- **Direct contact:** If you have questions about any citations, directly contact your licensor or certifier during or after your review.
- **Regional liaisons:** ODDS has a new liaison team for providers who can provide technical assistance. When you need support and don't know who to go to, they can help connect you to the right person or group. Contact them at [odds.regionalliaisons@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:odds.regionalliaisons@odhs.oregon.gov).

### **In other settings with centralized licensing, sometimes state licensors interpret rules differently. How will this transition address that?**

Each licensor brings valuable experience and knowledge to the work, and sometimes those differences mean things are handled in slightly different ways. As part of this transition, foster licensors and certifiers will take core competency training. This will help make sure providers get consistent information and support, no matter who their licensor or certifier is.

### **I'm not confident on the computer. Does that mean I have to close my foster home?**

As a rule requirement, you must have an email address for your foster home. We understand that technology can be challenging. Being a tech "genius" isn't a requirement to keep your foster home open. There are times we use other electronic systems, like Smartsheet. We will work with you so you can participate in a way that works for you.

We can also talk you through each step or find other ways to help so you can stay in compliance and continue providing care. Our goal is to support you, not create barriers.

If you have questions about submitting a document or form, please contact us.

## **Transition planning**

### **My adult foster home operates under a limited license. Will the requirements change after the transition?**

No, all requirements for limited licenses outlined in OAR 411-360 will remain the same. Adult foster homes that operate under a limited license will still be exempt from submitting references prior to licensure and creating house rules.

Limited licensed providers operating in Multnomah County received an email outlining the requirements to come into compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules, including mandatory postings and trainings.

### **I want to open a foster home soon. How does this transition affect me?**

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If you are qualified to become a foster provider, **community developmental disabilities programs (CDDPs) are still accepting new applications.**

CDDPs are processing applications for new providers as they have capacity. If the CDDP is unable to process your application before Jan. 1, 2026, ODDS will continue to process your application after that date. If your application is affected, you will hear from us.

If you want to become qualified, CDDPs are finishing up new provider orientations. CDDPs will not schedule new orientations they prepare for the transition.

Until Jan. 1, 2026, CDDPs will still:

- Submit your background check
- Administer your adult foster care test

If you have questions, please reach out using this [Smartsheet form](#).

### **Will my renewal inspection continue to be announced?**

Yes, ODDS will work with you to schedule your renewal inspections for a time that works for you and the individuals in your care.

### **If my license or certification expires in early 2026, what can I expect?**

ODDS will work with you to complete your renewal process. We email renewal applications 120 days before expiration. In September 2025, we'll start sending renewal letters via email to foster providers with 2026 expiration dates. This email will outline the steps for submitting your renewal application.

If your license or certificate expires between January 2026 and July 2026, there may be a delay in licensing tasks from ODDS. Your renewal inspection may occur after the expiration date on your license or certificate. After you submit your renewal application, provider enrollment agreement, and fee for capacity (adult foster homes only), we will extend your billing. This will ensure you are still getting paid for the care you are providing.

### **When will my AFH license transfer to two years?**

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 739. This law allows adult foster homes that maintain substantial compliance for three consecutive years to be licensed for two years instead of one year. Please note that the implementation of this bill is a separate process from the transfer of licensing and certification duties from CDDPs to ODDS. After ODDS finalizes the current licensing and certification transition in early 2026, we will begin the implementation of SB 739. Our current plan is to do this in 2026. When we know the timing of the SB 739 implementation, we'll communicate with adult foster home providers about how the new rules will work.

### **Will there be any changes in how annual training hours will be obtained?**

No, there will be no changes in how providers obtain their annual training requirements or the amount of training needed. AFH providers can find a list of approved trainings at the [AFH approved training website](#). Meetings conducted by ODDS do not count toward your annual training requirements. OAR 411-360-0170 outlines the requirements for providers to keep copies of training records in their files.

### **How will I know who my licensor or certifier is?**

Once your licensor or certifier has been assigned to your home, they will contact you to schedule your renewal inspection. Your licensor will explain what you should expect on the day of the renewal visit, such as who will be at your home and how long the visit may last. You can talk with your licensor about any special considerations for your home and ask them questions.

If it's not time for your renewal, you may not have an assigned licensor or certifier yet. If you have questions, they should be directed to the central email box

[dd.licensingfoster@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:dd.licensingfoster@odhs.oregon.gov)

Before your next renewal, your licensor or certifier may change. Licensor and certifiers are assigned statewide to ensure foster homes with the earliest expiration are inspected first.

**I provide care to individuals receiving services through the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD), Child Welfare (CW), or Mental Health (MH) at my foster home. Will this change?**

No, the individuals receiving care and services in your home will stay the same.

**Will there be changes to any processes when ODDS takes over licensing and certification responsibilities?**

Yes, below is a brief outline of the changes that are coming. Soon, you can learn more about each process on our [website](#).

### **Applications**

Beginning January 1, 2026, all new and renewal applications for adult and child foster homes must be submitted online through Smartsheets, streamlining the process for providers.

The Provider Enrollment Agreement is not captured within the application process.

### **Background Checks**

Starting in January 2026, ODDS will submit all initial and recheck background checks for subject individuals. As foster homes renew, providers or their designees will begin the process of becoming Qualified Entity Designees (QEDs), enabling them to manage background checks for their own homes.

### **Adult Foster Home Basic Training and Testing**

The Adult Foster Home Basic Training Course and Test will move online via Workday in January. This new format replaces the previous manual process at county offices and includes orientation for new providers. This will include the provider orientation for new providers.

### **Inspections**

Inspections will shift to a pass/fail system based on the severity and scope of violations.

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Homes that pass will be renewed and receive a copy of their license or certificate.

Homes that fail will receive follow-up inspections until they pass.

### **Plans of Correction**

If violations are found during inspections, providers will receive a statement of deficiencies and must submit an acceptable plan of correction timely, including proof of corrections. Delays may lead to administrative sanctions.

### **Child Foster Home (CFH) Placements**

CFH providers wanting placements can voluntarily complete a public-facing provider profile, which excludes personally identifying information. ODDS will also share home study documentation with CDDPs for them to be better informed.

Certifiers will not be approving child placements in foster homes, except when a variance is submitted. Providers will work directly with their local CME for placements.

## Contact ODDS

### **Who do I contact if I have questions, comments or concerns about the transition?**

Complete the [Smartsheet form](#) for any questions, comments or concerns. We will compile questions for future meetings and FAQs.

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You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact ODDS Licensing Unit at 503-945-5811. We accept all relay calls.



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