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July 21, 2025

To: I/DD community members and ODDS staff

From: Dana Hittle, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: Legislative session update

Hello,

The 2025 Oregon Legislative Session ended June 27. Please read this update to learn how the session affects the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS).

This budget is a positive step for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The agency's approved budget includes \$7.4 billion in General Fund dollars for ODHS, and of that \$2.5 billion is for ODDS.

Read [ODHS Director Fariborz Pakseresht's July 9 update](#) (English only) to learn more about how the new budget affects ODHS overall.

ODDS budget

The Oregon Legislature increased funding by 27% to maintain current ODDS services in Senate Bill 5526. We're thankful to be able to continue delivering equitable and effective services to Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Budget highlights include:

- Safety and oversight:
 - The new budget affects foster care licensing and certification. Community Developmental Disabilities Programs (CDDPs) manage foster home licensing and certification. Responsibility will move to ODDS on Jan. 1, 2026. This change will provide better consistency across the state. We're meeting with CDDPs to make a transition plan this month. We will communicate more about this change soon.
 - The budget makes permanent positions in the ODDS Licensing Unit to reduce delays in doing inspections. These positions were previously limited duration and set to expire at the end of the '23-'25 biennium.
- **SACU:** House Bill 5006 includes a budget note pertaining to the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU). The note directs the agency to develop a new operational plan for SACU. The plan will refocus SACU on providing shorter-term care to help people with I/DD while they are in crisis. We will communicate next steps soon.
- **Provider rate increases:** The legislature provided \$33.2 million to increase Medicaid rates for certain providers. The legislature relied on data from our [rate and wage study](#) to make these decisions and

address the biggest gaps. We followed up directly with CMEs and providers about this.

New bills

Several important bills passed that address services for people with I/DD and their families.

Four relate to how we license and oversee providers:

- **Senate Bill 136** allows us to revoke a license, certificate or endorsement of an I/DD service provider in certain situations. It is intended to strengthen our response in cases of repeated technical assistance or corrective action. ODDS will organize a rules advisory committee later this year as part of implementing this bill.
- **Senate Bill 1066** delays until 2028 the requirement for new adult foster homes and residential training homes to install automatic sprinkler systems. Extending this exemption will allow ODHS and its partner agencies to continue working on ways to improve fire safety while avoiding significant costs to providers.
- **Senate Bill 739** directs ODDS to perform inspections within 120 days of a new provider being initially licensed. It also allows us to move adult foster homes to a two-year license renewal cycle if they have been in substantial compliance with regulations for three or more years.
- **Senate Bill 729** affects Oregon Health Authority and providers they oversee, but ODDS was tracking it because of its impact on the population we serve. The bill prohibits mental health service providers

from denying access to services on account of a person's intellectual or developmental disability.

In addition, the passage of **Senate Bill 810** reinforced the state's long-standing commitment to prioritizing competitive integrated employment for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Employment First law strengthens the employment services that ODDS, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Department of Education already provide for people with I/DD. This important Employment First work will now be a statutory mandate. Read more about this milestone in our [June 20 message](#).

Next steps

ODDS will continue to communicate as we implement these new requirements. If you have questions, email dd.directorsoffice@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Closing thoughts

We know constrained state resources and uncertainty around key federal funding streams can be stressful. I would like to reiterate what Director Pakseresht said in his message: "We will continue to analyze the impacts of the recently passed federal budget bill and will communicate our findings in the coming days and weeks. However, the state budget is a strong vote of confidence by our local leaders in ODHS, our mission, and the thousands of staff members whose daily efforts turn legislative investments into real results for the people we serve. In a time of limited resources and competing priorities, these investments unequivocally affirm the value of this work and recognize the difference you are making for Oregon's

children, families, older adults, people with disabilities, and Federally Recognized Tribes.”

We thank everyone who worked on behalf of people with I/DD to improve our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Hittle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Hittle".

Dana Hittle

Interim Director

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