



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF  
**Human Services**  
Developmental Disabilities Services

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July 28, 2025

To: Case management entities (CMEs) and providers

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

Subject: Foster Care licensing and certification transition

Hello,

Please read this update about the coming foster care licensing and  
certification transition.

This message is especially important for:

- Community developmental disabilities programs (CDDPs)
- Adult and child foster care providers in Oregon's intellectual and  
developmental disabilities (I/DD) service system.

I'm copying the following partners for awareness:

- Brokerages
- Agency providers.

### What's changing?

Community developmental disabilities programs (CDDPs) license and certify adult and child foster homes (AFH and CFH) in Oregon's I/DD service delivery system. This work includes:

- Managing the application process
- Monitoring the compliance of current homes
- Completing inspections of foster homes.

These tasks will move to the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) on Jan. 1, 2026. This will centralize foster care licensing and certification at the state.

This is a big transition. We understand how it deeply affects CDDPs, providers, your employees and the people we serve together. We know you have questions. We will support you through this change. Our support will include a schedule for regular communications. We want you to know when you will receive updates.

### Why is this change happening?

This change is required by the 2025-2027 budget approved by the Oregon Legislature. With each budget, programs suggest investments and possible savings. The budget balances investments and savings. With that process, budget decisions can be made that change how we operate.

### Was this change made to save money?

Centralizing licensing does provide a savings. But, it provides other benefits that are more important. That is why it was a savings option proposed by our agency.

### What are the benefits of central foster care licensing?

A central foster care licensing team supports:

- Consistent practices across the state
- A single source of direction and communication for licensees
- An ability to see statewide trends to address problems faster
- Improved accountability.

Across our agency, we are working to improve the quality and safety of care options for the people we serve. Having a central team makes it possible for us make needed improvements faster.

### What is happening next?

ODDS has been preparing for this change since the budget was approved. We'll collaborate with CDDPs and foster providers throughout this change. We will establish regular, planned communications so that you know what to expect. The communications schedule will make it clear when you can expect updates and answers to questions. We'll work with you to communicate about this transition with the individuals you serve. We will provide more information on this plan soon.

### Can you tell us more about the timeline?

As we build the state licensing team for I/DD foster care, our communications will keep you informed about the implementation timeline, rule and process changes, job opportunities in ODDS Licensing, and other developments. We'll use your questions and feedback to inform these communications and resources.

We met with representatives from CDDPs to begin this planning. Beginning Aug. 19, the foster care licensing and certification transition team will meet with CDDPs each first and third Tuesday of the month. CDDPs, if you didn't receive the meeting invitation, please

send an email to transition project lead Laura Copeland at [laura.j.copeland@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:laura.j.copeland@odhs.oregon.gov).

Foster providers, this week we're starting internal meetings to discuss provider engagement in this process. We're planning a transition kickoff meeting for you in mid-August. After that, we plan to have monthly meetings with you until the transition is final. ODDS Licensing will communicate directly with you about the details of these meetings.

### Questions?

We want to make the process of asking questions as easy as possible. We also want to track common questions. That way we can answer those first. To meet your needs, please contact us.

- CMEs, please email transition project lead Laura Copeland at [laura.j.copeland@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:laura.j.copeland@odhs.oregon.gov).
- Providers, please [use this form to contact ODDS Licensing](#) with your questions and feedback about this transition.

We'll use your submissions to inform our updates at meetings and resources, such as FAQs that we're developing.

## Our shared commitment and a thank you

We want to thank CDDPs for all they have done to oversee foster care licensing and certification. We have quality options for the people we serve because of the work they have done.

We'll work through this transition together and grounded in our shared mission to continuously improve our strong and equitable service delivery system that puts people first. Thank you for all you do to keep the individuals we serve safe, stable and thriving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana Hittle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dana Hittle

Interim Director, [Office of Developmental Disabilities Services](#)

Oregon Department of Human Services

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