

## Director's Message

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**Date:** Dec. 17, 2025

**To:** I/DD community members and ODDS staff

**From:** Darlene O'Keeffe, Interim Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

**Subject:** **Foster care licensing and certification moves to ODDS in January**

Hello.

I'm writing to remind you about the [foster care licensing and certification change that happens on Jan. 1, 2026](#). This message is most important for:

- Individuals who get intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) foster care services and their families.
- Foster care providers
- Community developmental disabilities programs (CDDPs).

Please note: This change does **not** affect the type of services individuals get.

On Jan.1, 2026, ODDS will be responsible for the following:

- Managing applications for I/DD foster homes

- Making sure current homes are qualified and follow Oregon's policies and rules
- Inspecting foster homes.

CDDPs did this work in the past. The ODDS Licensing Unit will do this work going forward.

This transition has been a team effort. Thank you, all providers, CDDPs and community members who helped us get ready. Your feedback strengthened our decisions related to rules, processes and resources.

## **For individuals who live in foster homes**

Nothing about how you get your services will change. Your foster care services stay the same. Your case management services stay the same. The way you [make a complaint](#) stays the same.

The change affects who licenses and certifies your foster home. CDDPs used to do this work. Now, ODDS will do it. The staff members that visit your foster home to do this work will change.

The reason for the change: The Oregon Legislature made this change in the state's 2025–27 budget.

Benefits of the change: Across our agency, we're working to improve the quality and safety of your services. The ODDS Licensing Unit will build on the great work of the CDDPs. Our central licensing team will support:

- Consistent practices across the state
- Clear and unified communication
- Faster problem solving
- Stronger accountability.

The ODDS Licensing Unit will help foster homes stay safe and meet the standards that protect you.

## **For CDDPs and foster care providers**

Thank you again for working with us through this transition. We are working hard to make this transition smooth. We can't hire certain positions that are essential to this transition until after Jan. 1. We ask for your patience during the next two months as we get our new staff hired and trained.

Thank you for coming to the transition meetings that we hosted this year. Your questions and concerns informed our process. We've updated the FAQs with your latest feedback. Please read them for specific details about the transition. Also, please look for future updates from ODDS Licensing.

- [FAQ for providers](#)
- [FAQ for CDDPs](#)

If you have questions after consulting the FAQs, please email [dd.licensingfoster@odhs.oregon.gov](mailto:dd.licensingfoster@odhs.oregon.gov). You can also find [information about the transition on our website](#).

**Prospective foster providers**, [learn more about becoming a provider on our website](#).

Sincerely,

Darlene O'Keeffe

Darlene O’Keeffe, Interim Director  
[Office of Developmental Disabilities Services](#)  
Oregon Department of Human Services

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