

Community Update

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Date: June 15, 2026

To: Intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community

From: Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: **Children's Extraordinary Needs program expands**

We have news about the Children's Extraordinary Needs (CEN) program. This news will be most important for:

- Parents and guardians with children on the CEN waitlist
- Staff at community developmental disability programs (CDDPs) and Children's Intensive In-Home Services.

What's the news?

We are increasing the number of children that the CEN program serves. Right now, it serves 155 children at a time. Starting July 1, 2026, the program will be able to serve 230 children at a time. This means 75 more children will be able to join this program.

The [CEN program](#) is for children under 18 who have very high medical or behavior needs. Parents and guardians are paid to provide care for their child.

Why is this change happening?

The program started July 1, 2024. The Oregon Legislature gave the program a limited budget. Within that budget, we estimated that the program could support 155 children at a time.

About 15 months after the program began, we had enough data to begin analyzing the program's service usage. The average cost per child was lower than expected. Since then, the data continues to affirm this finding. That's why we can expand the program to support more children within its budget.

Due to its limited budget, the program has a long waitlist. We hear how frustrating it is to wait for this program. We will keep analyzing the program's data to make the most of its budget.

Will anything change for children in the program?

No. The program's services stay the same.

Will the way the waitlist works change?

No. The process and order of the waitlist stay the same.

What happens next?

Soon after July 1, 2026, we'll send a written letter to the families of the next 75 children on the waitlist. The letter will explain next steps.

We will update the CEN waiver to serve 230 children at a time.

How can I give feedback or learn more about the CEN program?

- Tell us what you think about this change. Send us an email at ODDS.waivers@odhsoha.oregon.gov.
- [Go to the program's web page](#).
- Email the CEN staff at cenprogram@odhs.oregon.gov.
- Talk to your services coordinator.

Thank you for working with us to support more children in this program.

[Office of Developmental Disabilities Services](#)

Oregon Department of Human Services

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