
Temporary Medicaid Expansion for the PHE Unwinding

SUD 1115 “Bridge to the Bridge” Amendment

8/31/2022

Public Hearing

Laurel Swerdlow, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Health Policy



Today's agenda

- Opening remarks
- Background: PHE and the churn population
- Pathway to affordable coverage
- Temporary Medicaid expansion for PHE unwinding
- Question and answer



Background

Public Health Emergency and the churn population

What is Medicaid and the Oregon Health Plan?

- ✓ Medicaid is a federal program that is administered by each state.
- ✓ The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) is Oregon's Medicaid Program.
- ✓ Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are local OHP health plans that cover medical, dental, and mental healthcare.
- ✓ More than 1 in 4 people in Oregon get health care coverage from OHP.
- ✓ OHP includes Medicaid and CHIP program as well as state administered health coverage programs.



Free health coverage
offered by the state of Oregon

Medicaid Churn: Cycling on and off Medicaid coverage, often due to

- Challenge of navigating state redetermination procedures
- Short-term income changes and changing family circumstances



Many people return to OHP shortly after leaving.

In Sept. 2019, **34%** of people enrolling in OHP were returning after less than 12 months; **25%** within 6 months.

Through the Public Health Emergency, people have had continuous Medicaid coverage



Family First Coronavirus Recovery Act

1. Provides continuous Medicaid coverage for the duration of the federal public health emergency.
2. Removes administrative barriers to enrollment.

What this means: People have kept OHP benefits even if their income goes up

Affordable coverage for the churn population

- When the public health emergency (PHE) ends, the agency will redetermine eligibility for all OHP enrollees
- Adults above 138% FPL are not eligible
- Roughly 45k more people reported being covered by OHP with income 138-200% FPL in 2021 vs. 2019
- Adults with incomes between 138-200% of the federal poverty level would benefit from a new affordable coverage option

Family size	138% FPL	200% FPL
1	\$18,574	\$27,180
2	\$25,268	\$36,620
3	\$31,781	\$46,060
4	\$38,295	\$55,500

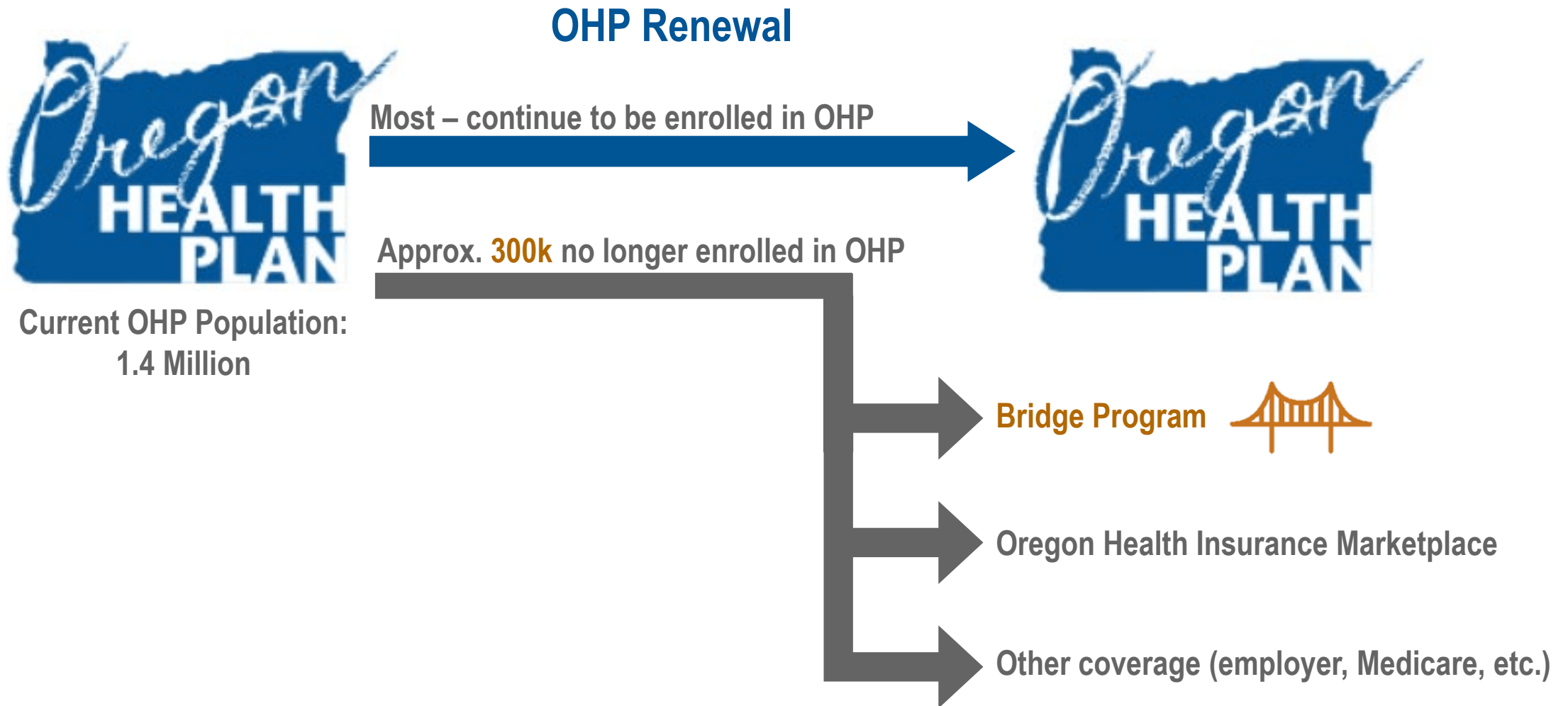
Pathway to affordable coverage

Unwinding the PHE: what we know

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) officially extended the PHE by 90 days on July 15, 2022
- The soonest the PHE is set to expire is October 13, 2022
- States will be given 60 days advance notice prior to the end of the PHE confirming that the expiration will occur
 - No such advance notice has been given
- Oregon will have 14 months to complete redetermination once the PHE expires



Creating paths to affordable coverage



Bridge Program vision

Adults with income 138-200% FPL
stay in their CCOs

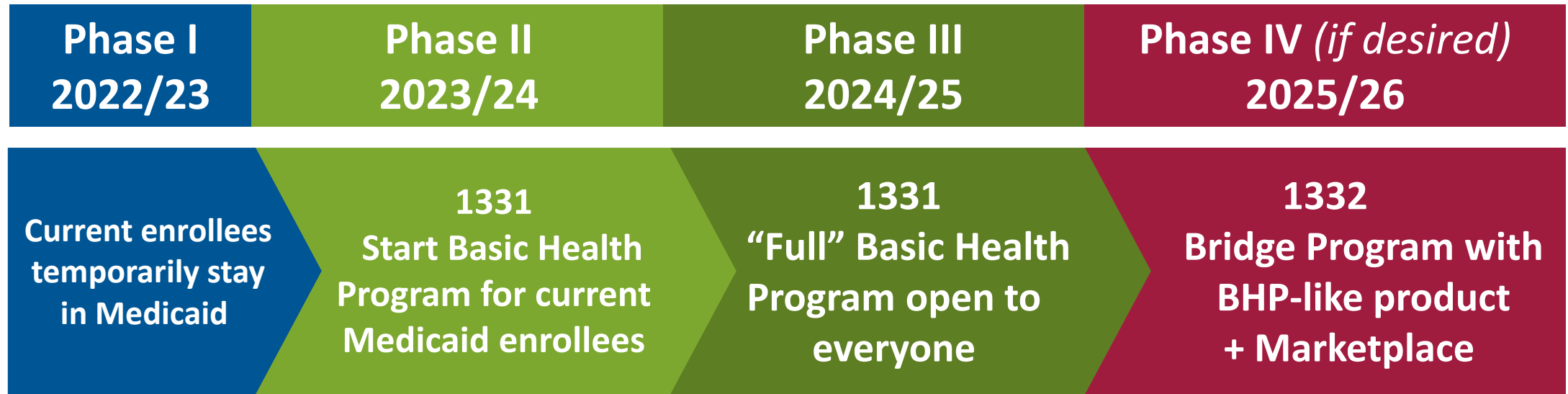
Little-to-no costs for enrollees

Plan covers
robust set of benefits

Choice between Basic Health
Program (BHP) and subsidized
Marketplace coverage



Viable pathway to a Bridge Program for individuals 138-200% of the federal poverty level



Temporary Medicaid Expansion
(SUD 1115 Waiver)

Temporary Medicaid expansion

For PHE unwinding

SUD 1115 Bridge to the Bridge Amendment

Maintain eligibility for individuals enrolled in OHP who would otherwise be found ineligible with incomes up to 200% FPL so that they remain covered in their current delivery system until the State can implement the BHP

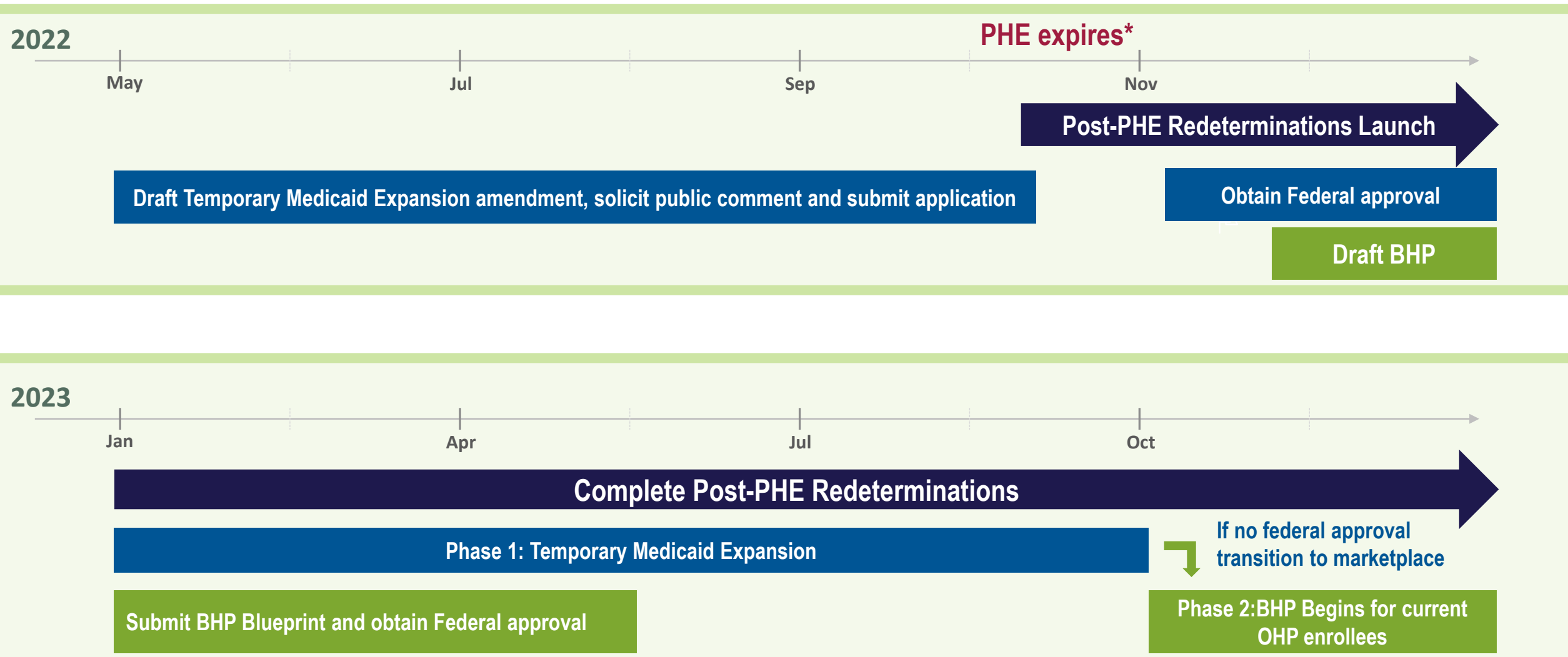
This demonstration will not affect or modify any other components of the State's current Medicaid and CHIP programs outside of eligibility

Purpose, goals, and objectives

- Temporarily expand OHP coverage to include people in Oregon with income from 138-200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for 14 months following the expiration of the federal PHE
- The demonstration would begin on the day that the PHE expires
- For all OHP members other than American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) members, this demonstration would end when Oregon implements its Basic Health Plan
- For AI/AN OHP members, this demonstration would remain in place for five years

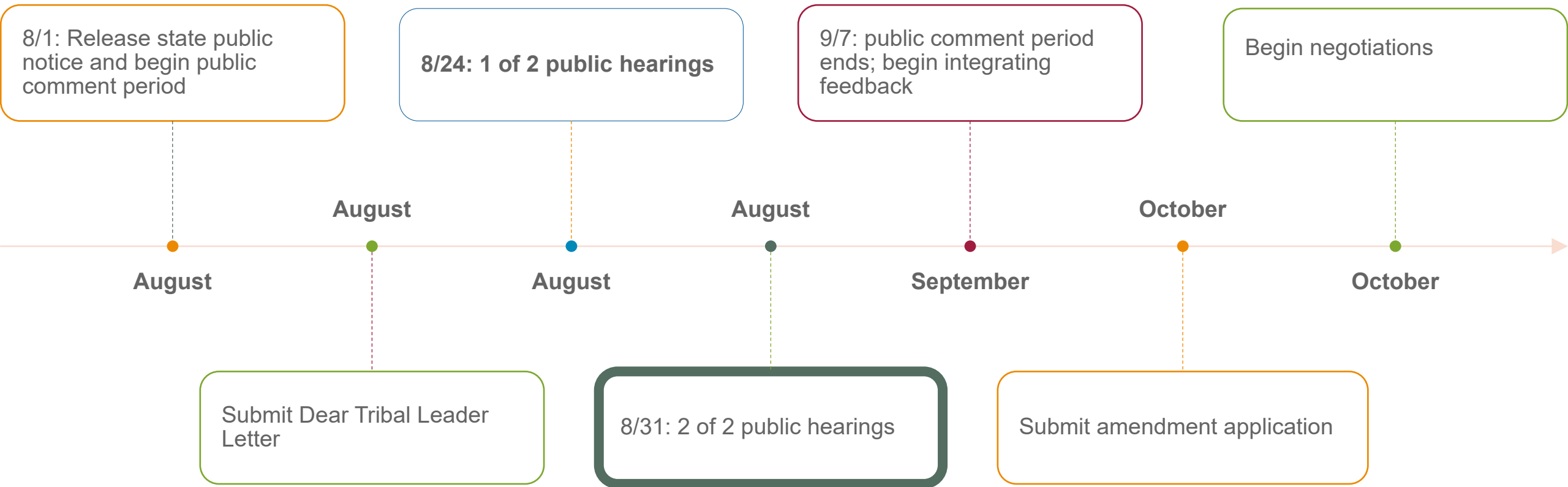


Redeterminations and BHP Timeline*



16 *Dates are approximations based on 7/15/22 federal PHE declaration; PHE is anticipated to be renewed on 10/13/22.

Amendment process and timeline



Questions?

To submit written questions or comments:

1115SUD.BridgeAmendment@dhsosha.state.or.us

