

Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver: Health-Related Social Needs

What is a Medicaid waiver? Because Medicaid is a state and federal program, states must apply for a Medicaid waiver to make changes from normal federal guidelines. Medicaid waivers give states the flexibility to test new ways to deliver and pay for Medicaid benefits, with approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

What is Oregon's 1115 Medicaid waiver? Oregon's 1115 Medicaid waiver will provide more federal funding and expanded coverage to Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members. The current 1115 waiver includes several first-in-the-nation benefits tied to Medicaid coverage, including health-related social needs (HRSNs).

What are health-related social needs or HRSNs? HRSNs are social and economic needs that affect an individual's ability to maintain health and well-being. These services are meant to help OHP members stay healthy during times of greater need and have been found to improve health outcomes, health inequities, and decrease health care costs.

What kinds of HRSNs are included with the 1115 waiver?

Climate supports, available March 2024. Benefits for eligible OHP members include:

- Payment for devices that maintain healthy temperatures and cleaner air, including air conditioners, heaters, and air filters
- Mini refrigerators to keep medications cold during a power outage
- Portable power supplies to keep medical devices running during a power outage

Housing supports, anticipated November 2024. OHA is planning for the following services to be available to qualified OHP members:

- Tenancy sustaining services
- Rental assistance for up to six months, including arrears
- Utility costs for up to six months, including arrears
- Storage fees
- Select home modifications and hotel stays

Nutrition supports, anticipated January 2025. Nutrition supports include:

- Nutrition education
- Fruit and vegetable prescriptions for up to 6 months
- Medically tailored meal delivery for people with nutrition sensitive conditions
- Meals or pantry stocking
- Funds to buy groceries or hot food items for children under 21, youth with special health care needs (YSHCN), and pregnant individuals

Who will be eligible for HRSNs? OHA is working to define HRSN eligibility requirements for all HRSNs.

To be eligible for climate supports, an OHP member must have a health condition that makes climate events challenging or dangerous. They must also be experiencing a life transition, and be at least one of the following:

- Adults and youth released from incarceration in the past 12 months
- Adults and youth discharged from Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs) in the past 12 months
- Individuals who are currently involved in or have been previously involved in the Oregon child welfare system
- Individuals transitioning from Medicaid-only to dual eligibility (Medicaid and Medicare) status within the next three months or past nine months
- Individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

Additional resources:

- Web page: [HRSN general information](#)
- Web page: [HRSN provider](#)
- Flyer: [How to become an OHP HRSN Provider](#)