



Date: October 17, 2022

To: Behavioral Health Housing Providers – Service Element 12

From: Jesse Benet, Adult Behavioral Health director
Behavioral Health Programs

Subject: SPMI Rental Assistance Program rate increases effective October 1, 2022

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has increased the Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) Rental Assistance Program rates to align with HUD Fair Market Rates (FMRs), effective October 1, 2022. OHA will:

- Amend all contracts to remove budget caps based on geographical areas and reflect the FMR for your respective counties.
- Retroactively assign these amounts once providers return signed contracts to OHA.
- Reimburse for services upon receipt of the quarterly invoice.

The number of allotted slots will remain the same, and your expenditures will still be limited to these new contractual amounts. Reporting requirements also will remain the same.

During our bi-monthly meeting in November, Theresa Naegeli, Janet Zeyen-Hall, and I will answer any questions you may have about this topic. We can also provide ongoing technical assistance as needed.

Why is this happening?

It is important to ensure the necessary support for people at risk of admission to the Oregon State Hospital (OSH), as well as people transitioning out of OSH, to thrive within their communities. The SPMI Rental Assistance Program is crucial to:

- Preventing entry and re-entry into the criminal legal system, and the subsequent return to forensic services at OSH, and
- Alleviating the bottleneck at OSH that occurs when housing isn't available in local communities.

This plan is in response to the concerns shared at bimonthly meetings about local budget caps and funding to adequately support local housing needs. We hope this plan helps you meet the needs of houseless people in your communities going forward.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact [Vivienne \(LaNae\) Bowles](mailto:Vivienne@oregon.gov) (503-269-7008).

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon's behavioral health system and the services you provide.