Direct OHA to implement a respite program for parents and guardians caring for children and youth (aged 0-25) with complex mental health and substance use related needs. Respite improves family stability and reduces caregiver stress and utilization of higher cost, out of home settings like emergency departments and residential placement.

Within an effective system of care, respite is the only service not currently available in Oregon.[1] Respite is one of the most commonly requested services among youth and families, echoed in a variety of state and national reports over the past decade, including not limited to:

- The System of Care Advisory Council Youth Respite Report (2024)
- U.S. Surgeon General Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents (2024)
- Special Master Report - Dr Marty Beyer (2024)
- OHA Ombuds Program (2023)
- Alvarez & Marsal Report (2019)
- Children and Youth with Specialized Needs Workgroup Report (2018)
- Oregon's Child, Youth and Family Continuum of Care and Partner Feedback Report (2018)

Successful passage of this legislative concept and related investments would

- Direct OHA to obtain CMS waiver authority for respite (via the 1115 or 1915 waivers)
- Support CCOs in developing respite through various mechanisms, including direct billing through Medicaid, inclusion through In Lieu of Services (ILOS), and utilization of global budget funds for Health- Related Services (HRS) and Supporting Health for All through Reinvestment (SHARE).
- Create two OHA positions to develop a 1915(c) or 1115 Demonstration waiver and operationalize the program in coordination with the Behavioral Health Division and community partners.

  Respite Care Policy analyst and federal and state liaison (OPA3)
  Responsible for working across OHA, Medicaid, Behavioral Health, Health Policy and Analytics, OHSU, and ODHS to develop a 1915 (C) or 1115 demonstration waiver to receive approval to operate a respite program. Staff will collaborate and communicate with CMS and OHA's federal policy team.

  Respite project management and waiver reporting (PA2)
  Responsible for identifying scope, budget, and deliverables to ensure successful implementation of the respite program. Staff will establish key deliverables, due dates, and report status to the steering committee.

[1] https://wraparoundohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Evolution-of-the-SOC-Approach-FINAL-5-27-20211.pdf

Estimated budget (from OHA)[2]

	General Fund	Federal Fund	Total Fund
Medicaid	$741,110	$1,962,843	$2,703,953
Non-Medicaid	$1,901,441		$1,901,441
Admin (Staffing)	$197,410	$197,410	$394,820
Total	$2,839,961	$2,160,253	$5,000,214

[2] Estimates for those aged 0-21