

Memorandum

To: Oregon Health Plan providers and partners

From: Kristen Donheffner, Behavioral Health Policy manager

Date: April 25, 2025

Subject: Federal comment period now open for Oregon's Substance Use Disorder 1115 waiver application: Please comment by May 10, 2025

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is now accepting public comment about Oregon's [request to extend Oregon's Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) 1115 Waiver Demonstration another five years](#).

The comment period is open from April 10, 2025, through May 10, 2025 at [Medicaid.gov](#).

The funding through this waiver supports a full continuum of care, from prevention and treatment to recovery support. If approved, the extension would preserve access to these lifesaving and life-enhancing services for OHP members. Access to enhanced SUD treatment services:

- Has contributed to fewer overdose deaths, emergency department visits, and interactions with the criminal justice system among people with SUD. This leads to improved public health and safety outcomes.
- Can lead to less spending on care associated with untreated SUD.

The extension would also allow Oregon to:

- Add [contingency management services](#), a proven medical intervention that supports recovery for individuals with SUD, improving outcomes and fostering more sustainable care.

- Update Oregon's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) so that Oregon can issue the \$5,000 lifetime benefit to help eligible members transition from SUD residential treatment to living in the community.
- Align the SUD waiver period with the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) 1115 waiver period. This alignment would support better coordination of both waivers' goals and measurements under Oregon's Medicaid Quality Strategy.

What should you do?

Please submit your public comments as soon as possible to ensure they are included in the review process. Letters of support are welcome in this vital work. You can submit comments at [Medicaid.gov](https://www.medicaid.gov).

Questions?

If you have questions, please email sud.waiver@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Thank you for your support to help ensure continued access to the substance use treatment and recovery services people need to lead healthy, successful lives.