

Memorandum

To: Coordinated Care Organization (CCOs)

From: Jessi Wilson, 1115 Waiver Strategic Operations Director

Date: May 14, 2025

Subject: 1115 Waiver Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Implementation Update

This memo provides an update to the HRSN benefit implementation plan that was communicated to CCOs on February 19, 2025. The updates outlined in this memo are based on input from CCOs and key partners, and in consideration of system capacity, alignment of priorities, and operational feasibility. This memo is meant to support CCOs in planning for staffing and systems updates, and has an impact on 2026 CCO Contract requirements. OHA will continue to collaborate with CCOs and key partners in planning for these program updates, which are summarized below:

Updates to HRSN Housing Supports Implementation:

- In response to CCO feedback and concerns around operational feasibility and capacity, OHA is withdrawing the proposed 2026 CCO Contract requirement to expand the HRSN Housing Benefit. This means HRSN one-time moving supports will not be implemented January 1, 2026. It also means that OHA will not pursue the change to allow HRSN-authorized Members to transfer their HRSN rent/utilities assistance to a new address. CCOs provided specific feedback about provider readiness, lead time for implementing a new benefit, and verifying eligibility as specific concerns with the proposed change.
- OHA understands there was some support for the proposed change, and we appreciate the feedback we received from CCOs. We will continue to explore potential options for supporting individuals experiencing DV and accessibility needs; however, given the information to date, exact implementation date of this policy change is unclear at this time.

Updates to HRSN Nutrition Supports Implementation:

Fruit and Vegetable Benefit

- In response to CCO feedback and concerns around statewide availability, OHA is withdrawing the proposed 2026 CCO Contract requirement for CCOs to contract with a local fruit and vegetable provider. Instead, OHA will encourage CCOs to work with local providers when they are available and can meet the Members' needs. We appreciate the feedback and look forward to supporting CCOs in creating their Fruit and Vegetable Provider network.
- In response to CCO and key partner concerns around the Fruit and Vegetable Benefit fee schedule being too low to operationalize the benefit, OHA is pursuing a rate increase. We will share an update on this effort soon.
- In light of the pending fee schedule update as well as current system capacity, OHA is delaying the launch of the Fruit and Vegetable Benefit to 2026, launching no sooner than **March 1, 2026**.

Pantry Stocking Benefit

- Recent information has provided clarity that the system changes required to operationalize the Pantry Stocking Benefit through the Oregon Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card are not feasible with the benefit implementation timeline. Therefore, OHA is pausing efforts to pursue leveraging the EBT card for administering the Pantry Stocking Benefit and withdrawing the proposed 2026 CCO Contract requirement for the benefit to be administered solely through the EBT card. Alternatively, OHA recommends pursuing a service delivery model similar to the Fruit and Vegetable Benefit and will align the implementation timeline as well, resulting in launching the Pantry Stocking Benefit no sooner than **March 1, 2026**.
- This update will require CCOs to ensure an adequate Pantry Stocking provider network is available to administer the benefit. OHA encourages CCOs to leverage Community Capacity Building Funds when appropriate, and is also looking forward to supporting CCOs in developing their Pantry Stocking Provider network. To that end, in the coming months, OHA will provide further guidance

to support HRSN Nutrition benefit readiness, including collaboration on a feasible implementation date and development of nutrition benefit provider networks.

Questions?

If you have questions about these changes, please contact Jessi Wilson, 1115 Waiver Strategic Operations Director at jessica.l.wilson@oha.oregon.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.