

Public notice

Request for comment – OHA proposes to amend the Medicaid State Plan to make supplemental payments to nursing homes participating in the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program, effective October 1, 2021. – Comments due November 1, 2021

Date: September 14, 2021

Contact: Jesse Anderson, State Plan manager

Comments due: 5 p.m. November 1, 2021

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) intends to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to establish a supplemental payment to nursing homes participating in the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program.

This supplemental payment aims to:

- Support quality care in nursing homes through improved recruitment and retention of the nursing home workforce by means of improved health care coverage for employees;
- Maximize use of Medicaid federal financial participation; and
- Reimburse providers based on the volume of Medicaid services provided.

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing difficulties in recruiting and retaining the nursing home workforce. The current rate is not adequate to improve workforce recruitment and retention as desired. The Oregon Legislature passed [SB 800](#) (2021 Regular Session) to provide additional state share to support the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program.

Each participating nursing home will:

- Receive a quarterly supplemental payment that varies with its pro rata share of Medicaid days;
- Enter into a memorandum of understanding with OHA that specifies how the supplemental payments will be used;
- Participate in evidence-based workforce and quality of care improvements; and
- Annually report quality and other metrics.

\$30 million in state share has been appropriated over the biennium for this supplemental payment

How to comment:

OHA welcomes public review and input. Please send written comments by 5 p.m. November 1, 2021 to jesse.anderson@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact Jesse Anderson at 503-945-5772, 711 TTY or jesse.anderson@dhsola.state.or.us.