



Public notice

Request for comment – OHA proposes to apply for the Substance Use Disorder 1115 Waiver - Comments due February 21, 2020

Date: January 14, 2020

Contact: Teri McClain, Substance Use Medicaid Analyst or Joanna Johnson, Substance Use Systems Coordinator

Comments due: 5 p.m. Friday, February 21, 2020

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) intends to apply to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) 1115 Waiver.

- If approved, the waiver would allow OHA to bring in more Medicaid dollars to pay for residential treatment for more Oregonians and provide the supports needed to prevent substance use disorder and sustain long-term recovery. Examples of these services include crisis intervention, peer support services, outreach and education to help individuals in recovery find and keep housing. There would also be a corresponding State Plan submission.
- The [Waiver Implementation Plan](#) contains milestones established by CMS (required to comply for the SUD 1115 Waiver) and explains how Oregon plans to address the requirements.

Background:

OHA believes that substance use disorder is a chronic health condition that requires long-term comprehensive care and support. However, Oregon's current Medicaid SUD treatment system faces significant barriers to providing the services that Oregonian need due to limitations in place through federal regulations.

- Currently, Medicaid funds cannot be used to pay for residential treatment provide in facilities with more than 16 beds. A majority of Oregon's residential treatment facilities have more than 16 beds. Oregon currently pays for these services out of the general fund.
- Substance use disorder requires prevention and outreach, treatment, and ongoing maintenance and support. However, only treatment is eligible for Medicaid funding.

If approved, the waiver would allow OHA to improve Oregon's SUD treatment system in three ways:

1. Increase access to SUD residential services
2. Expand Recovery Support Services
3. Provide access to transitional Housing Support Services

How to comment:

OHA welcomes public review and input on [the draft application](#) and [implementation plan](#). Please send written comments by 5 p.m. Friday, February 21, 2020, to sud.waiver@dhs.oh.state.or.us (fax 503-947-1119).

For more information on the waiver and meeting times visit the SUD 1115 Waiver page: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Pages/SUD-Waiver.aspx>