

New Federal Rules: Impact to Oregon Health Plan and Healthier Oregon

This document provides guidance on how to answer questions from Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Healthier Oregon members about upcoming changes due to new federal requirements.

Background

In July 2025, the federal government passed House Resolution 1 (HR1), also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. This law requires updates to OHP programs and policies.

In Oregon people can qualify for full OHP benefits regardless of immigration status through a program called Healthier Oregon.

What's important to know now

Most changes required by new federal rules will take effect starting October 2026 or later.

- Some members will start receiving notices in late 2026. We ask that members keep their contact information up to date, report any changes, and respond to renewal letters.
- OHA and local coordinated care organizations (CCOs) will share more information before changes take effect.
- Work or activity rules will apply to some OHP and Healthier Oregon members. Many members may qualify for exemptions or may already meet the rules. These rules will not begin until 2027.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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What changes are ahead?

- [More frequent renewals for almost all members.](#) Currently, OHP members can stay covered for two years at a time between renewals. Starting in late 2027, renewals will be required every six months for many adults, and every 12 months for all other members.
- [Work or other activity rules for some adults.](#) Most members who can work, already do; however, starting January 1, 2027, new federal rules will require many OHP and Healthier Oregon members to prove they work, volunteer, go to school, or meet an exemption when they renew their benefits. If the rules apply to you, OHA or your CCO will communicate more with you about what this process looks like later this year.
- [Changes for people with certain immigration statuses.](#) Starting Oct. 1, 2026, people with immigration statuses, including asylee or refugee status, humanitarian parolees, and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, will move to Healthier Oregon from other OHP programs. Unlike in other states, in Oregon people will keep their health benefits.

New federal policy changes also require that Healthier Oregon members shift from enrollment with a CCO to Open Card by January 1, 2027. Open Card (also known as fee-for-service or FFS) has the same OHP benefits, but the network of health care providers may be different. This does not mean that people must pay for care.

- Funding changes. Due to reductions in federal funding, many parts of the health system in Oregon are bracing for cuts. This may mean that CCOs, hospitals and providers across the state may also be making changes to local services.

What do I need to do to keep my coverage?

- OHP and Healthier Oregon members do not need to do anything at this time to keep their coverage due to federal changes.
- OHP work and other activity rules and more frequent renewals won't take effect until 2027. Please continue to report changes and respond to renewal letters. You should receive a notice when it's time to renew or if more information is needed.
- If you are affected by eligibility, work and other activity rules or other federal changes and we need more information from you, you will receive a notice. This is why we're asking that you keep your contact information updated. What are work and other activity rules?
- Work and other activity rules are new federal rules that start in 2027 for OHP and Healthier Oregon members. Many OHP members ages 19-64 will need to meet the new rules or prove they are exempt.
- OHP members (including Healthier Oregon members) may need to show an exemption from the rules, or work, volunteer, go to school, or do a combination of those things for a total of 80 hours per month. Many will need to provide some sort of documentation to provide proof of those things if the state doesn't already have data to show that they meet the requirements.

Are there exemptions for work and other activity rules? How do I find out if the new rules will apply to me?

OHP work and other activity rules will take effect in 2027. We know that people are eager to have all the details about the changes ahead. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently provided more details about work requirements and medical exemptions. OHA is analyzing this information to see

how it will impact OHP members and will be communicating additional information in the coming months.

What we know today is that work and other activity rules will only apply to people who are all of the following:

- Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and Healthier Oregon members
- Adults
- Between the ages of 19 and 64.
- Exemptions include people who are:
 - Parents of children under age 14 or certain caregivers
 - On certain disability-based OHP programs
 - Pregnant (and for one year after pregnancy ends)
 - Recently incarcerated (released in the last three months)
 - American Indians and Alaska Natives
 - Youth formerly in foster care
 - Eligible for or enrolled with Medicare
 - In substance use treatment or diagnoses with chronic substance use disorder
 - Getting SNAP or TANF
 - Verified to have complex medical needs or certain disabilities

What is OHA doing about this?

Oregon is doing everything possible to protect access to care. Many agencies and community partners are coordinating, including the Governor's Office, Oregon Health Authority, partner agencies, community partners, providers, coordinated care organizations, and legislators to review the entire system, identify the greatest risks, and develop strategies to preserve coverage wherever state authority allows. The goal is to maintain as much stability as possible, both for the people who rely on OHP/Medicaid and for the providers who serve them.

People who are over income for OHP may qualify for OHP Bridge, which covers adults aged 19 to 64 with a higher income limit than other OHP Programs. People who are over income for any OHP program available to them may qualify to enroll in private health coverage through the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace. Most people who enroll through the Marketplace qualify for financial help.

People who lose OHP coverage can explore their options for other health coverage at OregonHealthCare.gov. Unfortunately, people who lose coverage due to not meeting OHP work or activity rules will not be eligible for financial assistance with Marketplace plans. People can also reapply for OHP at any time.

Where can I find more information?

- Visit the OHP federal updates web page: [OHP.Oregon.gov/HR1](https://www.ohp.org/hr1) , which provides updates for OHP members, providers and community members.
- Subscribe to OHA's Oregon Health News newsletter: tinyurl.com/OHAnewsletter
- Follow any of OHA's social media channels:
 - Instagram: @OregonHealthAuthority
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/oregon-health-authority>
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