

# Air Conditioner Deployment Program

---



This program is a result of [Senate Bill 1536](#) (SB 1536) which passed in the 2022 legislative session. SB 1536 provided \$5 million (less 10% for administrative costs) to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to purchase and distribute air conditioner (AC) units to people at risk for heat-related illness (HRI) who meet certain eligibility criteria. With this funding, we will be able to distribute approximately 4,000 units to eligible and at-risk Oregonians this summer.

- There are eligibility criteria to receive an AC unit and prioritization is based on those who qualify as most at-risk.
- We are distributing every air conditioner unit we purchase. Supply is limited and we know we can't meet the need of every person who qualifies.
- We are currently working with partner organizations around the state to help install AC units.

## Who qualifies for an AC unit?

- Program eligibility is defined by [Senate Bill 1536](#) as people who are eligible for medical assistance programs through OHA, Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), or Medicare, or have received any medical assistance through any of these agencies in the past 12 months.
- Eligible Oregonians who qualify as most at-risk for HRI are prioritized to receive an available AC unit. The people who qualify as most at-risk include people who:
  - are 65 years of age or older; **or**
  - are a medically fragile child; **or**
  - have a disability or medical condition that makes them vulnerable to heat events, like diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, or a respiratory disease; **and**
  - do not have cooling devices.

## How do I apply to get an AC unit from OHA?

There is no direct application process. OHA is working with the ODHS to identify people who meet the eligibility criteria described above. Those with the highest needs will be contacted when an AC unit is available.

If you receive supports from the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) or Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) in the Oregon Department of Human Services, you will be notified if you are eligible, and an air conditioner is available.

## Are there other resources for AC units?

Oregon Health Plan members who are enrolled in a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) and not getting supports from APD or ODDS can contact their [CCO Client Services number](#) to ask about getting an AC unit under [flexible services](#). CCOs may also be prioritizing individuals and their supply may be limited.

Some cities and counties may have programs as well. For example, the [City of Portland](#) and [Multnomah County](#) both have programs, but supply in those programs is also limited. You can check with your city or county to see if there are any programs.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### What kind of AC units are available?

These are portable air conditioning units that have tubing and an insert for your window.

### Is my living situation part of the qualifying criteria?

Your living situation is part of how you qualify. The program is meant to serve people who don't already have cooling devices or other ways to obtain an AC unit. People who already have air conditioning devices or live in a community-based setting, such as a foster home, group home, assisted living facility, retirement facility, treatment facility or home, or nursing facility do not qualify for an AC unit.

### How long does it take to get a device if I'm found eligible?

The purchased AC units are coming in as the supply chain allows and the state is working with partners to get them out as quickly as possible. If you qualify, and there is an available AC unit, you will be contacted for delivery arrangement.

### **How will I receive my AC unit?**

The way you get your AC unit will depend on what you need. If you can set it up yourself it might be shipped to your home. Or a community-based organization may deliver and help install it. You'll get more information closer to the delivery date.

### **Can I get assistance with setting up my AC unit?**

If you qualify and an AC unit is available, you will be contacted and asked questions about your windows to see if they will be the right fit for the portable units and find out if you will need help setting it up. If you need help, we will help arrange it.

### **Can my landlord stop me from using my AC unit?**

The bill approving OHA to fund AC units has [included legal approval for installation and use of these devices](#) except under the following conditions:

A landlord may not prohibit or restrict a tenant from installing or using a portable cooling device of the tenant's choosing, unless the installation or use of the device would:

Violate building codes or state or federal law, violate the device manufacturer's written safety guidelines for the device; or damage the premises or render the premises uninhabitable; or require amperage to power the device that cannot be accommodated by the power service to the building, dwelling unit or circuit.

OHA will have a letter to accompany all new devices on the recipients' rights to keep and use these devices.

### **What can I do to get cool if I'm not able to receive an AC unit through this program?**

During heat waves, many communities open cooling centers as a safe place for people without air conditioning. During the next heat wave, to

learn where one may be open in your community Dial 2-1-1 or 1-866-698-6155 or visit [211info.org](http://211info.org).

### **How can I get assistance with my utility bill so I can run my AC units?**

OHA is working with community partners to determine who can help offset the cost of utility bills associated with air conditioning, and how to best follow-up with air conditioner recipients to make sure the units are working. In the meantime, 211 has a utility assistance page that lists options for assistance in the tri-county area.

### **Are the AC units available statewide?**

Yes, AC Units are available statewide to people who qualify.

You can get this in another language, large print,  
or another way that is best for you.  
Call 800-699-9075 (TTY 711).

**OHP.Oregon.gov**