

Questions and Answers: CLSS Enhanced Payment Applications

Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services

Relationship to CLAS Standards

Are Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services the same as Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards?

No, National CLAS standards are a set of 15 action steps that all behavioral health providers can use to provide culturally appropriate care. (<https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas/standards>)

Culturally and Linguistically Specific Program/Organizations

Can we apply if we are a residential program?

No, currently residential programs are not eligible for enhanced payments.

If my organization is primarily made up of staff who are all from a culturally specific community, does this make me automatically qualify?

No, a culturally specific organization must also provide culturally specific services as outlined in the application and OAR 309-065-0000 to 0030.

Can a culturally *responsive* organization or program that centers its work around many minoritized communities apply for the culturally and linguistically specific enhanced payment?

No, they cannot. The enhanced payment is for Culturally and Linguistically *Specific* Services designed to meet the needs of a distinct cultural and minoritized community.

Can a culturally or linguistically specific program or organization still provide services to people outside of the distinct cultural group it is serving?

Yes, but they can only receive the enhanced payment for culturally and linguistically specific behavioral health services as defined in OAR 309-065-0010.

Is it possible to be deemed eligible for the enhanced payment for providing Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services if the community we served is BIPOC or people of color?

No. While BIPOC and people of color are useful terms to communicate inclusion and solidarity amongst minoritized racial groups, in order to qualify for enhanced payment Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services must be designed to focus on a distinct cultural community rather than a broad group of peoples.

Can a Culturally and Linguistically Specific Program apply if it exists within an organization that isn't culturally and linguistically specific?

Yes, a **program** can apply as a Culturally and Linguistically Specific Program if it is primarily staffed and services are provided by people that have extensive experience working with or being immersed in the same culturally specific community that is being served.

What is meant by affirming intersectional identities?

Intersectionality accounts for the experiences of community members who have multiple minoritized identities. Given that Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services are designed to focus on one shared cultural identity such as race, it is important that providers communicate how the people they serve will receive quality care when they experience other forms of oppression in addition to the one addressed by the provider.

Bilingual Individual Provider

Can my organization attest to my language proficiency?

No, only testing by a third party that is also an OHA approved testing center may attest to language proficiency.

What is the level of proficiency required to be deemed eligible for the bilingual provider enhanced payment?

The OHA standard for proficiency in any language for this program is a High Intermediate Level.

Some OHA approved testing centers have multiple language proficiency tests available. Do I have to take all of them?

It is encouraged for providers to take Speaking, Listening, Writing and Reading tests. However, only Listening and Speaking is required.

Must I be deemed eligible for the individual bilingual provider enhanced payment to continue providing services in a language other than English?

No. You can continue to provide services in a language other than English, but you would not be entitled to the enhanced payment.

Can my agency apply on my behalf as a bilingual service provider?

Yes, if you will be billing under their Medicaid number. However, your agency must submit only one application at a time per person. They cannot apply for several people in one application

Have another question?

Please reach out to us at bhequity@odhsoha.oregon.gov.