

Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizens can now get OHP Plus (full Medicaid) benefits



Who are COFA citizens?

COFA citizens are from:

- The Federated States of Micronesia,
- The Republic of the Marshall Islands, and
- The Republic of Palau.

COFA citizens are free to travel, work, and live in the United States through a Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the U.S. government.

What is changing?

In the past, adult COFA citizens have only been eligible for emergency Medicaid benefits (also called CAWEM or CAWEM Plus benefits).

In December 2020, federal law gave full Medicaid eligibility for COFA citizens. In Oregon, this means COFA citizens may be eligible for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Plus benefits. They may also be eligible for:

- Medicare Savings Programs,
- Long-Term Care services, and
- Temporary medical assistance through the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility process.

These changes are effective on **March 11, 2021**.

If you do not have current health coverage and want to apply:

You may apply for OHP in any of the following ways:

- **Online:** [ONE.Oregon.gov](https://one.oregon.gov)
- **Over the phone:** 800-699-9075 (TTY 711). Wait times may be long.
- **In person:** During the pandemic, we encourage you to call before you visit a local office.
 - With a trained community partner. Find one at <http://bit.ly/ohplocalhelp>.

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

- At an [Aging and People with Disabilities](#) or [Self-Sufficiency Programs](#) office.

If you apply before March 11, you will only qualify for CAWEM or CAWEM Plus benefits. However, your benefits will automatically change to OHP Plus benefits on March 11, 2021.

Your OHP Plus benefits can start as early as Dec. 28, 2020, if you had CAWEM or CAWEM Plus on or before then. We will send you a letter to let you know.

If you have CAWEM or CAWEM Plus benefits:

You don't need to do anything. On March 11, 2021, you will automatically start OHP Plus benefits.

- Your OHP Plus benefits can start as early as Dec. 28, 2020, if you had CAWEM or CAWEM Plus on or before then.
- You will get a letter in March that confirms the change.

If you get a Request for Information letter asking for immigration information or documentation or an interview: You must do what it states in the letter and respond.

If you have bills for health care you received between Dec. 28, 2020, and March 11, 2021, OHP can help. Call us at 800-273-0557 (TTY 711).

If you have a private health plan and receive tax credits through HealthCare.gov:

You cannot have both OHP Plus and tax credits at the same time.

- **If you have the COFA Premium Assistance Program**, the program will stop paying your premiums when you start OHP benefits.
- **If you receive a letter that confirms your OHP Plus benefits, call HealthCare.gov to end your private coverage.** Call them at 800-318-2596 (TTY 855-889-4325). **If you do not cancel this coverage by March 31, you may have to pay back tax credits.**

Remember to file taxes to account for tax credits from HealthCare.gov.

Questions or concerns?

If you have questions and concerns, please call us at 800-699-9075 (TTY 711).

OHP.Oregon.gov