

Talking points for Community Partners

Purpose

The following information can be used by community partners to respond to questions and concerns.

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Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

- At this time, no changes have been made to health programs OHA administers, including OHP and Healthier Oregon.
- It's important for people in every Oregon community to access the health care and other services they need.
- OHA remains focused on eliminating health inequities by 2030 in Oregon.
- Every change in federal administration presents possible changes to health care policy.
- OHA will continue to monitor, prepare for and inform the public about changes that could impact access to health care and public health services in Oregon.
- OHA will continue to work toward affordable and quality care, and to protect essential health freedoms and benefits. There has been and will be no move from this mission.

Healthier Oregon

- Healthier Oregon was passed into law in 2021 (Oregon House Bill 3352) and has increased access to healthcare so that people of any age or immigration status may qualify for full Oregon Health Plan (OHP) benefits.
- The mostly state-funded program remains unchanged.
- All OHP members, including those enrolled via Healthier Oregon, continue to have health care coverage and access to health benefits under these programs.
- OHA is required by law to inform members about any changes to the Healthier Oregon program in a timely manner.

General 2025 Legislative Session Information

- The Oregon Legislature will meet in January to begin discussing the state's budget for the 2025-2027 biennium.
- The timeline is:
 - December 2, 2024 – Governor Tina Kotek released her [budget recommendations](#) for the 2025-2027 biennium. The Legislature will review and determine which recommended investments to pass.
 - January 21, 2025 – The Legislative session is scheduled to begin.
 - June 28, 2025 – The Legislative session is scheduled to end.

Contacting Elected Leaders

- Oregon residents can contact elected leaders if they wish to advocate for programs or share issues and concerns.
 - Governor's Office Constituent Services:
 - Contact the Governor [web page](#)
 - E-mail Governor.Kotek@oregon.gov
 - Call 503-378-4582
 - Legislators: Find your local legislator [here](#).
 - Attorney General: Email AttorneyGeneral@doj.oregon.gov
 - Secretary of State: Contact information [web page](#)
 - Treasurer: Contact information [web page](#)

Public Charge

- When people want to get legal status to enter or stay in the U.S., immigration officials consider if they are likely to need economic help from the government. This is called the "public charge test." Non-cash benefits aren't counted in the public charge test including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
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Program (SNAP) and vaccines, however it's important to understand how accessing benefits could impact your immigration case.

- Call the [Oregon Public Benefits Hotline](#) to talk with someone about your situation (800-520-5292, Monday - Thursday).
- Visit OHA's public charge web page for more information and resources:
 - English – [Oregon.gov/PublicCharge](#)
 - Spanish – [Oregon.gov/CargaPublica](#)

Learning About Executive Orders

- The American Bar Association has [additional information](#) explaining what Presidential Executive Orders are and how they work.

Misinformation

- Integrity and transparency are two of OHA's guiding values as we strive to ensure all people can achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being.
- OHA is committed to providing accurate and timely information that empowers people as they make important health decisions.
- With so much information being shared across multiple platforms, it's important to know the difference between factual, evidence-based health information and misinformation online.
- Consider the source. Here are five questions you can ask yourself to help distinguish between true and false information:
 - Is the author credible enough to speak to the topic?
 - Is the author or news source biased?
 - Does the author cite their sources?
 - Is this a well-known or legitimate website?
 - Is this account or website devoted to satire or parody?
- Read more than just the headline.
- Check the date when the information was published.
- Analyze the content to look for pieces of information that are inconsistent with others that you have read or seen, or seem overblown, dramatic or lacking specific evidence.
- Conduct a reverse image search If you suspect a photo is fake.
 - One tool you can use to do this is Google. [Click here](#) to view instructions on how to 'Search with an image on Google'.

Other resources

- OHA's federal changes [web page](#).
- Oregon Department of Justice Sanctuary Promise Community Toolkit in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) helps people get to know the state's long-standing sanctuary laws and the rights those laws protect.
- Governor Tina Kotek has been clear: she will not back down from a fight – whether it's access to reproductive and gender affirming care, staying on the path to reach our climate goals, protecting immigrant communities, upholding our civil liberties, and fighting for prosperity for every Oregonian. She has said she will stand firm, for all of us. The following are links to YouTube video messages in English and Spanish:
 - [Protecting Oregon Values](#)
 - [Protecting LGBTQ+ Oregonians](#)
 - [Protecting Oregonian Immigrants](#)
 - [Protección de los valores de Oregon](#)
 - [Protección de personas LGBTQ+ de Oregon](#)
 - [Protección de comunidades inmigrantes de Oregon](#)

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Community Partner Outreach Program at community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov or 971-283-1955 (voice or text). We accept all relay calls.