

OHP Data – Talking Points for Community Partners

Purpose

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

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) values

- OHA stands with everyone covered by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP / Medicaid) and [Healthier Oregon](#).
- We will continue to advocate for the privacy rights of all people in our state.
- OHA’s role as a state health agency is to protect health, safety, and privacy as far as the law allows, and we remain committed to doing so.
- Everyone deserves access to safe health care.
- OHA complies with Oregon’s sanctuary law, which does not allow sharing immigration information except in very narrow, legally defined circumstances.

Healthier Oregon funding

- Oregon uses state dollars to fund most Healthier Oregon services except for some emergency health benefits. Many of those are paid for with federal money. This is required by [state law](#).
- [Emergency health benefits](#) include services to treat emergency medical conditions, labor and delivery, behavioral health crisis, outpatient dialysis to treat acute renal failure or End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), cancer treatment, dental services provided in an emergency department or hospital setting and more.
- When Healthier Oregon members use emergency services, information may be shared with CMS.

Privacy and data sharing practices

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires OHA to report monthly about how Oregon uses federal funds for Medicaid services. OHA shares data with CMS about claims, health care visits, enrollment, and member eligibility.
- The report includes:
 - Oregon Health Plan (OHP) member names, addresses, and dates of birth.
 - Medicaid ID numbers.
 - Social security numbers.
 - Citizenship status.
 - Medicaid eligibility due to immigration status (specific immigration status is not shared).
- These reports are part of a normal process and have been done in the past for other federal administrations.

Data sharing lawsuit

- Oregon joined a [multistate lawsuit](#) to try to stop CMS from sharing protected Medicaid information with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or using the data for immigration enforcement.
- On December 29, 2025, a judge agreed with some parts of the state's request and rejected others, for now, while the court case continues.
- This means, that as of January 6, 2026, CMS may share certain data with DHS and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- CMS can only share information for people who received federally funded Medicaid services, including federally funded emergency benefits, who are considered to not be "lawfully residing" in the United States.
- People most affected could be Healthier Oregon members who received federally funded emergency benefits.
- The information that can be shared is:
 - A person's citizenship status (whether someone is or is not a citizen)
 - A person's Medicaid eligibility due to immigration status (specific immigration status is not shared)
 - Address
 - Phone number

- Date of birth
- Medicaid ID number
- The December 29, 2025 ruling means CMS could share data from previous years in addition to current and future data.
- While the lawsuit plays out, CMS isn't allowed to give detailed, sensitive medical information about enrollees to DHS or ICE.
- They also can't share Medicaid data about U.S. citizens or legal immigrants in the 22 states part of the lawsuit.
- The lawsuit will continue until there is a final ruling.
- The federal government has not provided Oregon with any information about how it plans to implement the court's order. OHA will provide updates as more information becomes available.

How to respond to questions

- Be open with applicants and members about known facts:
 - As of January 6, 2026, CMS may share some information with DHS and ICE, about people who are not “lawfully residing” in the United States who received federally funded Medicaid services, including federally funded emergency health services.
 - Shareable data includes citizenship or immigration status, address we have on record, phone number, date of birth, and Medicaid ID. (See the list above under the “Data sharing lawsuit” section for more details.)
 - There are no guarantees that CMS will share everyone's data with ICE.
 - Cancelling OHP right now does not erase data already shared with CMS.
 - OHA is required to share data with CMS for five years after Medicaid coverage ends.
 - If people choose not to use OHP for their medical needs, we recommend they talk with their health care provider about other options. If they are worried about their health, they should contact their health care provider.
- Ultimately, decisions about whether to apply for or keep OHP are up to applicants and members.
- If you are an OHP-certified assister, reach out to your Regional Outreach Coordinator (ROC) if you have questions or need additional support.

Resources

- OHA's federal changes [web page](#).
- Frequently asked questions about the federal government sharing personal information: <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le-1086100c.pdf>
- What you need to know about the federal government's sharing of personal information: <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le-1086100b.pdf>
- 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.
- Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) [web page](#).

Options to pay for health care

- **People can enroll directly through an insurance company regardless of immigration status.** Health insurance companies are not allowed to ask questions about citizenship and immigration status.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)** provide wide-ranging care—including medical, dental, mental health, and preventive services—regardless of a patient's ability to pay. FQHCs use a sliding fee scale based on income and currently serve anyone, including people without insurance. Find an FQHC at orhim.info/FQHC.
- **Not-for-profit health systems financial assistance programs.** Depending on household income, people may qualify for free health care or care at a sliding scale. This program is available at not-for-profit hospitals, health systems, and affiliated clinics. This financial help is available whether they have health coverage or not and applies after insurance is billed. When a patient receives care from a participating facility, they can request financial assistance.
- **Call 211** or go to 211info.org; they can provide information about local health services, including clinics with free or reduced-cost options.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Office of Community Health and Engagement at community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov.
