

Housing benefits for OHP members

Starting November 1, 2024, some Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members may qualify for housing benefits. Housing is one type of health-related social needs (HRSN) benefit.

What are HRSN benefits?

Health-related social needs are basic needs that affect a person's health. HRSN benefits help members who qualify with these basic needs:

- Housing
- Nutrition
- Staying healthy in any weather or climate condition
- Help getting other benefits

What are the HRSN housing supports?

- Help paying rent for up to 6 months. This includes late payments.
- Tenant support (help getting resources and services for renters). Things like:
 - Speaking with the person or company you're renting from (landlord)
 - Understanding leases
 - Referrals to other services
- Help paying for utilities like gas, electric and water. This includes:
 - Utility set-up
 - Utility bills and late payments for up to 6 months.
- Up to 6 months of storage fees.
- Home changes for health and safety. Benefits include:
 - Getting rid of pests
 - Deep cleaning

- Adding grab bars, ramps or drawer pulls
- Installing washable curtains or synthetic window blinds to help with allergies
- Hotel stays if needed while work on the home change is being done

Who qualifies?

You must be an Oregon Health Plan member to qualify.

Each benefit has different requirements. Things like how much money you make, your age, your health and housing situation.

But for **ALL** HRSN housing benefits, you must have one of the following health conditions:

- Complex physical health condition
- Complex behavioral health condition
- Developmental or intellectual disability
- Difficulty with self-care and daily activities
- Experience of abuse or neglect
- 65 or older
- Under age 6
- Pregnant or gave birth in the past 12 months
- Repeated use of emergency room or crisis services

In addition to health conditions, here are other requirements to qualify for each benefit:

Help paying for rent

To qualify you must meet all of these requirements:

- Have housing
- Have a household income that's 30% or less of the average yearly income where you live. You can find a [table listing qualifying incomes](#) online.
- Need support staying in your current housing

- Have a lease or written rental agreement
- Lack resources or support to prevent homelessness

Tenant support

- The same requirements as help paying for rent

Utility set-up and payments, storage fees

- Qualify for and be receiving HRSN help paying for rent

Home changes for health and safety

To qualify you must meet all of these requirements:

- Have housing – either rent or own
- Have a health condition that requires the home change
- Be experiencing at least one of these life situations:
 - Leaving incarceration (jail, detention, etc.)
 - Leaving a mental health or substance use recovery facility
 - In the Oregon child welfare system (foster care) now or in the past
 - Going from Medicaid-only benefits to qualifying for Medicaid plus Medicare
 - Have a household income that's 30% or less of the average yearly income where you live AND you must lack resources or support to prevent homelessness. You can find a [table listing qualifying incomes](#) online
 - Starting in 2025, young adults with special health care needs will also qualify

Hotel stays

To qualify you must meet all of these requirements:

- Be receiving the HRSN home changes benefit
- Need a place to stay during the work on the HRSN home change
- Have a household income that's 30% or less of the average yearly income where you live AND lack resources or support to prevent homelessness

How to apply

Members need to work with their health care provider or a local OHP community partner to see if they qualify and apply.

NOTE: HRSN housing benefit applications may take up to two weeks to be reviewed. If approved, additional time may be needed to provide the benefit.

Coordinated care organizations (CCOs) manage Oregon Health Plan benefits for most members. If you don't know if you're in a CCO, call OHP Client Services at 1-800-273-0557 or email Ask.OHP@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

If you're in a CCO

Go to the [CCO web page](#) to see how to contact your CCO.

If you're not in a CCO

Speak with a care coordinator at 888-834-4304 or email ORHRSN@Acentra.com.

To contact an OHP community partner

OHP community partners are trained and certified to help members understand and apply for benefits. Their services are free. Visit the [Find Local Help](#) page on OHA's website for connect with one.

Fill in an HRSN request form

Members also can complete an [HRSN housing request form](#) online. It's available in many languages. NOTE: Completing the form doesn't guarantee that you'll qualify.

Stay informed

Visit the [HRSN housing web page](#) to find more information on who qualifies, housing supports, and other HRSN benefits.

Questions?

Email us at 1115Waiver.Renewal@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact Chelsea Egbert at chelsea.egbert@oha.oregon.gov or 503-945-5772 (voice and text). We accept all relay calls.

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