



Frequently Asked Questions: Healthier Oregon – Starting July 1, 2022

Program basics

What is Healthier Oregon?

Healthier Oregon is a program for **people ages 19-25 or 55 and older**, who may now be eligible for full Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and other medical assistance benefits, regardless of their immigration status. This is possible because House Bill (HB) 3352 (2021) put into law a program called “Cover All People.” The program is now known as “Healthier Oregon.”

To learn more go to Oregon.gov/HealthierOregon or Oregon.gov/OregonMasSaludable for the Spanish version.

Program eligibility and outreach

Who can enroll?

To stay on budget for Healthier Oregon’s first program year, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) had to set a limit on enrollment. A community advisory work group recommended limiting eligible people to those who:

- Are ages 19-25 or 55 and older, and
- Currently don’t qualify for full OHP benefits because of their immigration status, and
- Meet all other OHP eligibility requirements.

What about lawful permanent residents (LPRs)? Do they need to wait five years to qualify?

No, lawful permanent residents can enroll when they:

- Meet all other OHP eligibility requirements, and
- Are ages 19-25 or 55 and older.

What happens when a member of Healthier Oregon turns 26?

Members will not lose coverage because they turn 26 through at least July 2023. They may be able to keep coverage longer if the program expands.

How many people will be eligible in the first year?

OHA estimates that more than 12,000 people will be eligible in the first year.

How many more people could be eligible and when?

OHA will add more people when more funding comes. HB 3352 does not grant OHA the authority to limit eligibility on or after July 1, 2023. At that time, coverage will expand to the full CWM-eligible population if the Oregon Legislature approves funding.

Estimates are that more than 55,000 people could be eligible as of July 2023. This estimate is for the number of people in Oregon who:

- Are ages 19 and older
- Are not eligible for full Medicaid due to their immigration status, and
- Have an income level that qualifies them for OHP.

Will current Citizenship Waived Medical (CWM) members transition to Healthier Oregon?

On July 1, 2022, eligible CWM members automatically moved onto Healthier Oregon.

What is the plan to tell people about the program?

CWM members who moved to Healthier Oregon got letters in May and phone calls at the end of June. OHA will also work closely with community partners and grantees to let people know and to support new enrollments.

Program benefits

What benefits will Healthier Oregon members get?

Healthier Oregon members will get full OHP benefits. Full OHP covers many health services such as:

- Medical
- Mental health
- Dental
- Eye exams
- Prescriptions
- Tests
- X-rays
- Hospital care, and
- Transportation to medical appointments.

It can also include services and supports for people who need help with activities of daily living such as:

- Bathing
- Dressing
- Walking
- Eating, or
- Supports related to cognitive issues.

What health plan will Healthier Oregon members enroll in?

OHP has local health plans called coordinated care organizations (CCOs). They help members get the care they need. Most Healthier Oregon members will enroll in a CCO. Members can choose their

CCO when there is more than one where they live. They can automatically enroll in a CCO if they don't select one.

A few members will get their benefits through an OHP "open card" with a fee-for-service network.

Other program impacts

What if someone has a Marketplace plan?

When someone enrolls or gets a notice saying they've enrolled in full OHP benefits, they must report this change. They should cancel their Marketplace plan as soon as possible after receiving their notice about their new benefits. They can log in to [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or call 800-318-2596 (toll-free) to do so. If they want help with this, they can call 855-268-3767 (toll-free) or go to [OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp](https://www.OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp) to find free local help.

If the member does not cancel their Marketplace plan, they may have to pay back the financial help they had.

Will Healthier Oregon affect immigration status?

OHP should not affect immigration status. OHP and long-term services and support provided in community-based care settings¹ are not considered a public charge. More information is in this [public charge fact sheet](#). For complex situations, the person may need to consult an immigration lawyer. For example, the public charge does apply to people who get long-term care services in a nursing facility or mental health institutions.

How much will it cost?

HB 3352 set a \$100 million General Fund budget for the 2021-2023 biennium. Most funds will go to services. A portion will go towards outreach, education, engagement efforts and administrative and system costs. OHA expects to get a federal Medicaid match for services allowed under federal rules. That includes emergency services and services during pregnancy.

¹ Medicaid Home and Community Based Care includes services in the following settings:

- In-home care (includes Independent Choices)
- Adult Foster Care
- Assisted Living Facility
- Residential Care Facility
- Specialized Living Facility
- Group Care Homes

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Community Partner Outreach Program at Community.Outreach@ODHSOHA.Oregon.gov. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.