

Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs

As of January 1, 2025, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) is offering benefits to certain young adults under a new Medicaid eligibility category: Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs (YSHCN).

YSHCN Benefits:

- Enhanced vision and dental services
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment ([EPSDT](#)) up to their 26th birthday
- Possible access to Health-Related Social Needs ([HRSN](#)) services

Who qualifies for YSHCN?

To qualify for YSHCN, a person must:

- Starting January 1, 2025, an individual must be 19 or 20 to apply. 21-year-olds will be eligible to apply in 2026 with it planned for the age limit to increase every year until 2030 when 25-year-olds can apply.



- Have an individual or family income at or below 205% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Have at least one qualifying health care need that began before age 19

Examples of special health care needs:

- Physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Long-standing medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, or spina bifida
- Behavioral or mental health conditions like depression or substance use

Current OHP Members who qualify for the YSHCN program will automatically receive YSHCN benefits. Individuals can also complete a short set of questions in the OHP application to qualify for YSHCN.

Why it's Important:

In Oregon, one in five children under age 18 has a special health care need. The 2021-2022 National Survey of Children's Health showed that 72.7% of children and youth with special health care needs in Oregon did not receive services necessary to prepare for the transition to adult health care. People identified as YSHCN frequently need more health and health-related social services than others of the same age. Providing no-cost health insurance helps these young adults to access their regular care during an important time of transition to adulthood.

What this means for people working with YSHCN Members:

- In 2025, the YSHCN benefit will cover approximately 6,000 new young adults who currently don't qualify for OHP. In addition, approximately 16,000 current OHP Members will receive enhanced benefits through YSHCN.
- Some YSHCN Members will turn 21 during 2025. Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) need to adjust their systems to ensure that YSHCN maintain their EPSDT and enhanced vision and dental coverage after their 21st birthday.
- CCO and Open Card providers will need to screen YSHCN Members annually to determine their need for HRSN benefits.

- Current OHP members who enroll in the YSHCN program will maintain their current 24-month continuous enrollment period.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. For questions contact: yshcn.info@oha.oregon.gov or 800-273-0557. We accept all relay calls.

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