
1115 Medicaid Waiver Update: Transitions and SDOH Benefits

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Oregon
Health
Authority

What's a waiver?



People are eligible for the Oregon Health Plan based on their income or for other reasons.

Federal rules set minimum standards related to eligibility and required benefits. But **states can ask to WAIVE some federal rules** to have more flexibility and offer the Oregon Health Plan to more people and cover more services than usually allowed.

Every five years, Oregon must renew its agreement with the federal government around the Oregon Health Plan – proposing new changes and continuing existing programs. The federal government can accept or reject these proposals.

What is a 1115 Medicaid Waiver?

An **1115 Demonstration** waiver is the broadest type of waiver available under Medicaid.

Under an 1115, states may propose to waive many of the key provisions of the Medicaid statute, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Who is covered
- ✓ What benefits are provided
- ✓ How much individuals may be charged for cost sharing
- ✓ How providers will be paid
- ✓ Must include a formal evaluation of impact.



Timeline: What's to come





Concept paper strategies

Our policy concepts break down the drivers of health inequities into four actionable sub-goals:



Maximizing coverage through the Oregon Health Plan



Improving health outcomes by streamlining transitions



Encouraging smart, flexible spending for health equity



Focused health equity investments

Improving Health Outcomes by Streamlining Life and Coverage Transitions



Vision

People have **equitable access** to the services and supports they need to be healthy and well -- **especially through times of transition.**



Proposed waiver strategies:

Waive federal *eligibility* rules so that people are allowed to have OHP coverage...

1. When they're in prison, jail or local corrections, juvenile corrections, the Oregon State Hospital, psychiatric residential treatment



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Waive federal *eligibility* rules so that people are allowed to have OHP coverage...

1. When they're in prison, jail or local corrections, juvenile corrections, the Oregon State Hospital, psychiatric residential treatment
2. Up to age 26 for Youth with Special Health Care Needs



Proposed waiver strategies:

Waive federal *covered services* rules...

3. So that OHP members who are experiencing major life transitions can have social supports

Major life transitions include things like

Becoming homeless

Getting out of jail or prison

Entering or leaving foster care

Leaving the Oregon State Hospital

Social supports include things like

Housing

Transportation

Food assistance

Employment supports



Examples of social supports:

Housing: Rental assistance or temporary housing, Home and community-based services, Pre-tenancy and tenancy support services, Housing-focused navigation and/or case manager

Transportation: Health-related non-medical transportation, Linkages to existing transportation resources, Payment for transportation to support access to SDOH services, Health-related non-medical transportation services in addition to Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Food assistance: Links to community-based food resources, Nutrition and cooking education, Fruit and vegetable prescriptions and healthy food boxes/meals, Medically tailored meal delivery

Employment supports: Person-centered employment planning support, Individualized job development and placement, Mentoring, Transportation



Proposed waiver strategies:

Waive federal *covered services* rules so that...

4. People with OHP can use more types of providers outside the medical model (like Traditional Health Workers and Peer Support Specialists)

And request federal funding so that...

5. Services are available to support people during disruptive transitions
6. Child Welfare can meet medical necessity for psychiatric residential treatment services for children in custody of the state





What this means for **Medicaid members**

Under the new waiver, **OHP members will get to keep coverage, care, and services, in more situations.** Some of these situations include:

- Leaving Oregon State Hospital, other psychiatric residential facilities, jails, juvenile corrections, or prison.
- Youth with Special Health Care Needs will get to keep their coverage until age 26 instead of losing it at 18.
- People who experience extreme weather events will have supports.
- Youth in foster care or who are transitioning out of foster care
- Elderly adults who have both Medicaid and Medicare health insurance

Learn More

Updates and more information, including documents in twelve languages:
[oregon.gov/1115waiverrenewal](https://www.oregon.gov/1115waiverrenewal)

Waiver application submitted to CMS:

- Full application: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2022-2027-Waiver-Application-Final.pdf>
- Summary of application: <https://apps.state.or.us/forms/served/he3955.pdf>
- Changes from draft application: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2022-2027-Application-Changes.pdf>
- Improving health outcomes by streamlining transitions concept: https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/he3786D_2.pdf

Contact the waiver team: 1115Waiver.Renewal@dhsoha.state.or.us