



What's next for universal health care in Oregon



Everyone should be able to get care when they need it – no matter where they live, what job they have, or how much they earn. But Oregon's health care system isn't working that way.

Costs keep rising. In 2023, **1 in 8 households** reported that medical bills wiped out all or most of their savings. People are delaying treatment. Providers are overwhelmed. Small businesses are struggling to afford coverage.

Oregon is taking action

The Oregon Legislature created the **Universal Health Plan Governance Board** to design a plan that ensures everyone in Oregon has access to care – without financial barriers, red tape, or gaps in coverage.

This is a **multiyear, public process** guided by community input and Oregon values.

In 2022, voters made affordable health care a constitutional right. Now the state is working to make that promise real.

What the board is doing

- Designing models for a **publicly funded health plan to cover everyone who lives in Oregon**
- Planning how it would be run, how to pay for it, and how it would work statewide
- Getting input from people living in Oregon – health care users, providers, employers, insurers, tribes, and community leaders
- Delivering final recommendations to the Legislature for consideration in 2027

Why it matters

- 1 in 5 rural Oregonians delay or avoid care because of cost.
- Small businesses are being crushed by rising premiums.
- Providers are burned out, and rural health systems are under threat.

A better system is possible – one that guarantees care for all and lowers costs.



What comes next

2025 to 2026:

Community engagement, financial modeling, legal analysis, and plan development that takes in to account the shifting landscape and health care cuts from federal actions.

By December 2025:

The board delivers a status update to the Legislature.

September 2026:

The board delivers draft plan models to the Legislature.

2027 legislative session:

Lawmakers review and decide Oregon's path to universal health care.

Stay connected

The Universal Health Plan Governance Board has four committees that hold public meetings on Zoom to develop the plan and meet statutory requirements:

- **Community Engagement and Communications Committee:** Leads engagement with groups across Oregon, including outreach to businesses, health systems, health care users, tribes, and others.
- **Finance and Revenue Committee:** Provides analysis and recommendations on the cost of universal health care in Oregon and funding options.
- **Operations Committee:** Provides analysis and recommendations on how to implement universal health care in Oregon, including options for a public corporation to administer it and plans for a transition phase.
- **Plan Design and Expenditures Committee:** Provides analysis and recommendations on options for who would be covered under universal health care, what the benefits would be, how providers would be paid, how to stabilize the workforce, and other elements.

For how to watch and provide comment to the committees, go to oregon.gov/uhpgeb. To contact the board, call **503-378-4100** or email uhpgeb.info@dcbs.oregon.gov.



Let's build a health care system that works for everyone – universal, affordable, and fair.