

Oregon Medicaid Waiver Approved with First in the Nation Funding for Medicaid Food, Housing, Enrollment and Climate

Last Wednesday, September 28, Oregon received federal approval to pilot the next series of changes to the state's Medicaid program over the next 5 years, beginning October 1, 2022 (through September 30, 2027). Under the agreement, Oregon will receive \$1.1 billion in federal funds to address inadequate food, housing, and other root-cause issues that lead to poor health for residents and families struggling to make ends meet.

Oregon's waiver encompasses a variety of authorities that maximize continuous and consistent access to coverage, improve health through focused investments that address health-related social needs, and support population health.

Highlights:

- Continuous eligibility for children from time of initial eligibility determination until they reach age 6.
- Continuous two-year eligibility for children and adults ages six and older
- Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) will be provided for specific populations/individuals experiencing transition as a Medicaid benefit, including:
 - Short term post-transition housing for up to 6 months
 - Housing supports, including utilities, pre-tenancy services (application, moving and eviction prevention), home modifications (i.e. handrails)
 - Nutrition education
 - Medically tailored food delivery (3 meals a day)
- HRSN during climate emergencies (including air conditioners, filters, generators)

With the approval complete, the state will begin planning for implementation of these changes over the next 14 months, as most changes approved will take full effect in 2024. The exception to this will be the continuous eligibility provision which will take effect when the public health emergency ends, expected some time early next year. OPCA will work with our members and the state in the coming months to ensure we remain indispensable innovators as the waiver is implemented.

To read more about what was included and what was not in the 2022-2027 Medicaid waiver, see the links below. To connect with OPCA and stay engaged in the implementation of the waiver, email policy@oprca.org or connect with Danielle or Marty anytime.

Oregon Medicaid Waiver Resources:

Oregon Waiver Policy Summary: https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2022-2027-Waiver-Policy-Summary.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Federal Approval (full waiver): <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Medicaid-Policy/Documents/2022-2027-1115-Demonstration-Approval.pdf>

Oregon Health Authority Press Release:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/bulletins/32f681f>

Bend press release: [▶ 'Unprecedented': Oregon Medicaid waiver brings more funds for food, housing \(centraloregondaily.com\)](#)