

Oregon's Medicaid Waiver

What is a Medicaid waiver?

A state must apply for a Medicaid **waiver** when it wants to make changes from normal guidelines. The state can ask the federal government for this waiver. A state can ask to waive certain regulations for greater flexibility around the following and more:

- Who is eligible for Medicaid
- What benefits they receive
- How health care is delivered to Medicaid members

Oregon will apply for a new waiver for the years 2022 through 2027. To continue to transform Oregon's Medicaid program, also known as the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has developed a vision, goals, strategies and an application.

Oregon's past waivers

The federal government usually only approves waivers for few years at a time. Oregon's Medicaid waiver has been renewed and expanded many times since 1994:

- The original 1994 waiver established OHP. This waiver expanded eligibility and benefits.
- The 2012 waiver renewal established coordinated care organizations (CCOs). CCOs are locally-based organizations that pay for health care.
- The 2017 waiver renewal built upon and improved the CCO model.

Looking forward

The 2022-2027 waiver will seek to build on Oregon's strong history of innovation in health care and make progress toward:

- Creating a more equitable, culturally- and linguistically-responsive health care system
- Helping contain costs by providing quality health care
- Investing in equitable and culturally appropriate health care, and
- Ensuring everyone can get the coverage they need.

What is Medicaid?

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) is Oregon's Medicaid Program.

Medicaid is a federal program that is administered by each state. The federal government helps pay for the program.

Federal law:

- Sets standards for how the program works.
- Sets minimum standards for Medicaid eligibility.
- Sets the required benefits.

In Oregon, Medicaid, known as the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), provides health coverage to about one in four people in Oregon from all walks of life.

We want to hear from you!

As a public program, OHP belongs to all of us. OHA needs your input to make sure the vision for the waiver renewal reflects the needs of the community. We welcome your input on how to make OHP more effective for every person in our state. Please keep in mind, however, that there are limits on the types of changes OHA can propose.

OHA is seeking the public's input on our waiver renewal application. **The public is invited to give input on the draft waiver application Dec. 7, 2021 through Jan. 7, 2022. Details on meetings and how to comment are below.**

Opportunities for public comment on Oregon's Medicaid waiver renewal application

- **Oregon Health Policy Board**
Dec. 7, 2021 | 8:30 a.m.– 12 p.m.
Join meeting: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602657497?pwd=emhzUnJsK1EzWk5rV0VpYTdjU3VrQT09>
One tap mobile:+16692545252,,1602657497#,,,,,0#,,306554#
 - **Health Equity Committee**
Dec. 9, 2021 | 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Microsoft Teams meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Or call in (audio only) +1 971-277-2343,,928637902#
Phone Conference ID: 928 637 902#
 - **Community Partner meeting (en español)**
Dec. 9, 2021 | 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Join meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkde6uqTsuGtE7CbrxDUI4WLOf70I18wg5>
 - **Medicaid Advisory Committee**
Dec. 15, 2021 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Microsoft Teams meeting [Click here to join the meeting](#)
Or call in (audio only) +1 971-277-2343,243372877#
Phone Conference ID: 243 372 877#
 - **Designing the future of OHP – Workshop 3.**
Dec. 16, 2021 | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Register in advance for this meeting: https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc--spjoqHteaw5dXCTUmWwDVE_7NgDU
 - **Community Partner meeting**
Dec. 17, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Join meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcod-6trD8sEtHdQadlOabTNYkZVpihdfFJ>
-

- **Oregon Health Policy Board**

Jan. 4, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join ZoomGov Meeting <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609166382?pwd=Ulp0eis5bUZPeUNQdWM3VU9aMnZwQT09>

Meeting ID: 160 916 6382 Passcode: 912812

One tap mobile +16692545252,,1609166382# ,, 0#,,912812# US (San Jose)

If you're unable to attend a meeting, you can email your comments to

1115Waiver.Renewal@dhsosha.state.or.us.

You can also mail a written comment to

Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Waiver Renewal Team

attn: Michelle Hatfield

500 Summer St. NE, 5th Floor, E65

Salem, OR 97301

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@dhsosha.state.or.us or by calling 1-833-647-3678. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

