

# 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. In 2021, to continue to transform Oregon's Medicaid program, also known as the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is developing the vision, the goals, the 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. As OHA needs your input to make sure the vision for the waiver reflects the needs of the community and stakeholders. We welcome your input on how to make OHP more effective for every person served 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 to help shape the details of our waiver renewal application. **The public is invited to give input on what should be in the draft waiver application until early January, 2022.** Later this year, we will seek comment on the application itself. Learn more about how to submit comments at [Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal](https://Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal). Or you can email your comments to [1115Waiver.Renewal@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:1115Waiver.Renewal@dhsoha.state.or.us).

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## Timeline



**Fall 2021**

The public is invited to give input on what should be in the draft waiver application through the end of 2021.



**December 2021**

A draft renewal application will be posted on the Waiver Renewal web page at [Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal](https://Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal).



**Early January 2022**

The deadline to submit public comments on the waiver application. Read more about the process at [Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal](https://Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal).



**February 2022**

OHA submits the renewal application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The final application will be posted on OHA's website.

If approved, the waiver renewal will be effective in late summer 2022.

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@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:community.outreach@dhsoha.state.or.us) or by calling 1-833-647-3678. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.