

# Oregon's 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver: A Pathway to Health Equity

Oregon is using its upcoming 1115(a) Medicaid Demonstration Waiver renewal as a pathway to create more equity in health care. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has received input from the public asking OHA to use this waiver renewal to push for a more equitable health care system. As such, OHA is proposing to the federal government the policy changes that we believe will create new systems of health, as well as reverse the legacy of historical and contemporary racism that has caused health inequities.

The overarching goal of the waiver is to advance health equity, including aligning with Tribal partners' priorities, by:



Maximizing continuous and equitable access to coverage



Improving health outcomes by streamlining life and coverage transitions



Moving to a value-based global budget, and incentivizing equitable care



Improving health through focused equity investments led by communities

## Maximize continuous and equitable access to coverage

It is only with continuous and equitable access to health insurance that people can access the care they need to stay healthy. We know that people of color and communities most harmed by social injustices have lower health insurance rates. Our approach will seek to eliminate inequitable access with strategies to extend coverage and services to every eligible child and adult in Oregon.

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## Improve health outcomes by streamlining life and coverage transitions

Data show members of high-risk populations often lose coverage and access to care during life transitions and in transitions between systems, like incarceration or the state hospital. These disruptions come at great cost to the individual and to the system. By providing specific benefit packages including extending eligibility to members in transition, we can ensure they stay covered, have important social determinants of health needs met and maintain access to care and medicine, which ultimately improves health outcomes. [READ MORE](#)

## Move to a value-based global budget

Compared to other states, Oregon has generated large savings from our approach to Medicaid. Our CCO model is both innovative and cost-effective. To maintain and build on our successes, we must continue to build a system that rewards spending on health equity and improving the health of communities rather than spending on medical procedures and services alone. [READ MORE](#)

### **Incentivize equitable care**

Our coordinated care model is built on incentivizing quality and access. OHP members and community members have continued to tell us that equity must be the focus across the system. We will revise our CCO metrics to focus on traditional quality and access for downstream health and also create a new set of equity-driven CCO performance metrics for upstream health factors. By taking these steps we can make significant progress in driving the system toward more equitable health outcomes. [READ MORE](#)

### **Improve health through focused equity investments led by communities**

Our system can do more to invest in community-based approaches to address social determinants of health that cause health inequity. With focused equity investments, we will redistribute both funds and decision-making power to local communities. With this focus on community-driven solutions, we believe we can use funding to better address larger scale barriers to health and health equity. [READ MORE](#)

### **Align with Tribal partners' priorities**

OHA is committed to working with the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon, and the Urban Indian Health Program (UIHP) to identify mechanisms to help ensure Tribal health care objectives are achieved while honoring traditional Tribal practices and upholding the government-to-government relationship between the sovereign nations and the state.

OHA is confident our policy concepts will lead to an 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver renewal that prioritizes health equity, provides incentives for spending more effectively, and makes meaningful improvements to Medicaid for the people of Oregon. Our waiver renewal is an integral part of a statewide strategy designed to center equity while increasing coverage, improving health care quality and containing costs.

OHA has based these policy concepts on extensive public feedback over the past several years. We rely on stakeholders and the public to inform the policies that we propose to continue to improve the Oregon Health Plan in ways that improve the health and lives of people in Oregon. We welcome feedback on the policy approaches outlined above and in the concept papers. You may contact us with input at any time via email

[1115WaiverRenewal@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:1115WaiverRenewal@dhsosha.state.or.us) or by attending a public meeting to provide comments. A calendar of public meetings is available on our webpage [Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal](https://Oregon.gov/1115WaiverRenewal).

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

### **Oregon's health equity definition**

Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined circumstances.

Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:

- The equitable distribution or redistributing of resources and power; and
- Recognizing, reconciling, and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.