

# House Bill 2051

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## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates General Assistance Program in Department of Human Services to help support Oregon residents who have disabilities and are pursuing Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability benefits by providing monthly cash assistance, medical assistance and case management services. Revises provisions relating to general assistance. Specifies operative date of January 1, 2010.

Establishes General Assistance Program Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Department of Human Services to provide grants of general assistance. Establishes eligibility requirements for individuals to receive grants.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to general assistance; creating new provisions; amending ORS 293.321, 411.105, 411.220,  
3 411.710, 411.720, 411.730 and 414.025; repealing ORS 411.750, 411.790, 411.860, 411.865 and  
4 416.810; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

5 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

6 **SECTION 1. Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this 2009 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**  
7 **411.710 to 411.730.**

8 **SECTION 2. (1) There is created in the Department of Human Services the General As-**  
9 **sistance Program.**

10 **(2) The purpose of the General Assistance Program is to help support residents of Oregon**  
11 **who have disabilities and who are pursuing Supplemental Security Income or Social Security**  
12 **disability benefits, by providing to recipients:**

13 **(a) Monthly cash assistance to enable recipients to meet their basic requirements for a**  
14 **standard of living compatible with decency and health;**

15 **(b) Medical assistance to meet ongoing health needs and to pay for medical documenta-**  
16 **tion necessary to establish eligibility for Supplemental Security Income or Social Security**  
17 **disability benefits; and**

18 **(c) Case management services to assist recipients in successfully qualifying for Supple-**  
19 **mental Security Income or Social Security disability benefits.**

20 **SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Human Services shall provide assistance and services**  
21 **under section 2 of this 2009 Act to an individual:**

22 **(a) Who has a disability as described in section 4 of this 2009 Act;**

23 **(b) Whose resources are within the limits prescribed in ORS 411.730;**

24 **(c) Who is a resident of Oregon; and**

25 **(d) Who is 18 to 64 years of age and has no dependent children in the home.**

26 **(2) The department shall adopt standards for cash assistance paid under this section that**  
27 **are consistent with the requirements of ORS 411.070. However, payments may not exceed the**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **Supplemental Security Income program benefit amounts adopted by the Social Security Ad-**  
 2 **ministration under the authority of 20 C.F.R. part 416, subpart D.**

3 **SECTION 4. (1) For purposes of section 3 of this 2009 Act, an individual has a disability**  
 4 **if the individual is unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically**  
 5 **determinable physical or mental impairment, or combination of impairments, that can be**  
 6 **expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous**  
 7 **period of not less than 12 months. To meet this description, an individual must be unable to**  
 8 **do the individual's past relevant work or any other substantial gainful work that exists in**  
 9 **the state, based on the individual's mental and physical residual functional capacity, age,**  
 10 **education and work experience.**

11 **(2) In adopting rules to carry out this section, the Department of Human Services shall**  
 12 **prescribe a definition of "disability" that is consistent with the definition of "disability" used**  
 13 **to determine eligibility for Supplemental Security Income.**

14 **SECTION 5. The General Assistance Program Fund is established in the State Treasury,**  
 15 **separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the General Assistance**  
 16 **Program Fund shall be credited to the fund. All moneys in the fund are continuously appro-**  
 17 **priated to the Department of Human Services and may be used only to provide grants of**  
 18 **general assistance under ORS 411.710 to 411.730.**

19 **SECTION 6.** ORS 411.105 is amended to read:

20 411.105. (1) A person seeking public assistance shall file an application for public assistance with  
 21 the Department of Human Services. At the time of application, the applicant shall declare to the  
 22 department any circumstance that directly affects the applicant's eligibility to receive assistance or  
 23 the amount of assistance available to the applicant. Upon the receipt of property or income or upon  
 24 any other change in circumstances that directly affects the eligibility of the recipient to receive  
 25 assistance or the amount of assistance available to the recipient, the applicant, recipient or other  
 26 person in the assistance household shall immediately notify the department of the receipt or pos-  
 27 session of such property or income, or other change in circumstances. The department shall recover  
 28 from the recipient the amount of assistance improperly disbursed by reason of failure to comply with  
 29 the provision of this section.

30 *[(2) The department may recover any cash assistance granted for general assistance under ORS*  
 31 *411.710 to 411.730 and the recipient's portion of the aid described in ORS 412.014 (3) that has been*  
 32 *paid to any recipient 18 years of age or older, and for the costs incurred by the department to provide*  
 33 *representation to the recipient under ORS 412.014 (2), when the recipient is presently receiving or*  
 34 *subsequently receives Supplemental Security Income. The amount of recovery shall be limited to the*  
 35 *total amount of Supplemental Security Income that was received for the same time period that the*  
 36 *general assistance or the aid received under ORS 412.014 was being paid.]*

37 *[(3)]* **(2)** Nothing in subsection (1) *[or (2)]* of this section shall be construed as to prevent the  
 38 department from entering into a compromise agreement for recovery of assistance improperly dis-  
 39 bursed, if the department determines that the administration and collection costs involved would  
 40 exceed the amount that can reasonably be expected to be recovered.

41 **SECTION 7.** ORS 411.220 is amended to read:

42 411.220. (1) **Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section,** the Department of  
 43 Human Services shall deposit in the State Treasury to the credit of the General Fund all the  
 44 amounts received by it from the United States Government or its agencies or from any other source  
 45 for public assistance purposes. All such funds, together with any remaining balances of funds re-

1 ceived for the purposes of public assistance of any type, hereby are appropriated for expenditure by  
 2 the department for the type of public assistance for which such funds were granted to or received  
 3 by the state or appropriated by the state, as the case may be.

4 (2) All moneys received from refunds, cancellations or recoveries *[resulting from]* of public as-  
 5 sistance payments made from state funds, as differentiated from federal or county funds, **and mon-**  
 6 **eys received under subsection (3) of this section** shall be paid into the State Treasury and  
 7 credited to the Public Welfare Account and hereby are appropriated for expenditure by the depart-  
 8 ment for public assistance purposes.

9 (3) **The department may recover from retroactive Supplemental Security Income owed**  
 10 **to a recipient by the United States Government or the Social Security Administration the**  
 11 **portion of the aid described in ORS 412.014 (3) that was paid to a recipient when the recipient**  
 12 **was 18 years of age or older.**

13 (4) **The department may recover from retroactive Supplemental Security Income owed**  
 14 **to a recipient by the United States Government or the Social Security Administration the**  
 15 **amount of any cash assistance granted as general assistance under ORS 411.710 to 411.730.**  
 16 **The amount of recovery shall be limited to the total amount of Supplemental Security In-**  
 17 **come owed for the time period during which the recipient received general assistance. All**  
 18 **moneys received under this subsection shall be deposited to the General Assistance Program**  
 19 **Fund established by section 5 of this 2009 Act.**

20 **SECTION 8.** ORS 411.710 is amended to read:

21 411.710. *[(1) General assistance shall be granted in accordance with the rules and regulations of*  
 22 *the Department of Human Services and on the basis of need, taking into account the income, resources*  
 23 *and maintenance available to the individual from whatever source derived and the necessary expen-*  
 24 *ditures of the individual and the conditions existing in each case.]*

25 *[(2) With respect to health services and needs to be provided in any general assistance programs*  
 26 *during any period, and within the limits of funds available therefor, the department shall determine*  
 27 *and fix, subject to such revisions as it may make from time to time:]*

28 *[(a) The types and extent of health services and needs to be provided to applicants and*  
 29 *recipients.]*

30 *[(b) Statewide uniform standards to be observed in the provision of health services and needs.]*

31 *[(c) The maximum number of days of health services and needs toward the cost of which general*  
 32 *assistance funds will be expended in the care of any applicant or recipient.]*

33 *[(d) Schedules of maximum fees, charges and daily rates to which general assistance funds will be*  
 34 *applied toward meeting the costs of providing health services and needs to an applicant or recipient.]*

35 *[(3) The types and extent of health services and needs and the amounts to be paid in meeting the*  
 36 *costs thereof, as determined and fixed by the department, shall be the total general assistance available*  
 37 *to applicants and recipients for health services and needs and the total amounts from general assistance*  
 38 *funds available to vendors in meeting such costs.]*

39 *[(4) Payments of general assistance for medical care and services shall constitute payment in full*  
 40 *for all such care and services for which the payments were made.]*

41 **As used in ORS 411.710 to 411.730:**

42 (1) **“Resident of Oregon” means an individual who lives in Oregon with the intent to re-**  
 43 **side in Oregon and who is:**

44 (a) **A United States citizen; or**

45 (b) **Otherwise lawfully residing in the United States.**

1       **(2) “Social Security disability benefits” means assistance paid to individuals on account**  
 2 **of age or disability under Title II of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 402.**

3       **(3) “Supplemental Security Income” means assistance paid to needy individuals on ac-**  
 4 **count of age or disability under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1382.**

5       **SECTION 9.** ORS 411.720 is amended to read:

6       411.720. *[No person shall be eligible for general assistance unless the person is a resident of the*  
 7 *State of Oregon.]*

8       **(1) For purposes of sections 3 and 4 of this 2009 Act, “substantial gainful activity” means**  
 9 **work that:**

10       **(a) Involves doing significant and productive physical or mental duties; and**

11       **(b) Is done or intended to be done for pay or profit.**

12       **(2) An individual is not engaged in substantial gainful activity if earnings from the ac-**  
 13 **tivity are below the greater of:**

14       **(a) \$940 per month; or**

15       **(b) An amount adjusted for national wage growth, calculated by multiplying \$700 by the**  
 16 **ratio of the national average wage index for the year two calendar years before the year for**  
 17 **which the amount is being calculated to the national average wage index for the year 1998**  
 18 **rounded to the next higher multiple of \$10 where such amount is a multiple of \$5 but not of**  
 19 **\$10 and to the nearest multiple of \$10 in any other case.**

20       **SECTION 10.** ORS 411.730 is amended to read:

21       411.730. *[The Department of Human Services shall receive all applications for general assistance,*  
 22 *and shall determine in accordance with its rules and regulations the eligibility for and the amount of*  
 23 *the assistance which any person shall receive.]*

24       **(1) If an individual lives with a spouse, the individual meets the resource limit under**  
 25 **section 3 of this 2009 Act if the value of all countable resources owned by the couple does**  
 26 **not exceed \$3,000.**

27       **(2) If an individual does not live with a spouse, the individual meets the resource limit**  
 28 **under section 3 of this 2009 Act if the value of the individual’s countable resources does not**  
 29 **exceed \$2,000.**

30       **(3) The Department of Human Services shall prescribe by rule the resources that are not**  
 31 **countable under this section, including but not limited to all of the following:**

32       **(a) A home in which the individual has an ownership interest and that serves as the in-**  
 33 **dividual’s principal place of residence.**

34       **(b) Household goods and personal effects.**

35       **(c) One motor vehicle if used for transporting the individual or a member of the individ-**  
 36 **ual’s household.**

37       **SECTION 11.** ORS 293.321 is amended to read:

38       293.321. **(1)** A person having a claim against the state shall present the claim, with the evidence  
 39 in support thereof, to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or the state agency that  
 40 incurred the obligation or made the expenditure on which the claim is based within two years after  
 41 the date on which the claim accrues. However, if any federal funding arrangement requires payment  
 42 of a claim within one year, that claim, with evidence in support thereof, must be presented within  
 43 one year after the date on which the claim accrues.

44       **(2)** All claims, with evidence in support thereof, presented for health services under [*ORS*  
 45 *411.710*] **section 2 of this 2009 Act** must be presented within one year after the date in which the

1 claim accrues.

2 **SECTION 12.** ORS 414.025, as amended by section 18a, chapter 861, Oregon Laws 2007, is  
3 amended to read:

4 414.025. As used in this chapter, unless the context or a specially applicable statutory definition  
5 requires otherwise:

6 (1) "Category of aid" means assistance provided by the Oregon Supplemental Income Program,  
7 aid granted under ORS 412.001 to 412.069 and 418.647, **general assistance granted under ORS**  
8 **411.710 to 411.730** or federal Supplemental Security Income payments.

9 (2) "Categorically needy" means, insofar as funds are available for the category, a person who  
10 is a resident of this state and who:

11 (a) Is receiving a category of aid.

12 (b) Would be eligible for[,] **a category of aid** but is not receiving a category of aid.

13 (c) Is in a medical facility and, if the person left such facility, would be eligible for a category  
14 of aid.

15 (d) Is under the age of 21 years and would be a dependent child as defined in ORS 412.001 except  
16 for age and regular attendance in school or in a course of professional or technical training.

17 (e)(A) Is a caretaker relative, as defined in ORS 412.001, who cares for a child who would be a  
18 dependent child except for age and regular attendance in school or in a course of professional or  
19 technical training; or

20 (B) Is the spouse of the caretaker relative.

21 (f) Is under the age of 21 years, is in a foster family home or licensed child-caring agency or  
22 institution under a purchase of care agreement and is one for whom a public agency of this state  
23 is assuming financial responsibility, in whole or in part.

24 (g) Is a spouse of an individual receiving a category of aid and who is living with the recipient  
25 of a category of aid, whose needs and income are taken into account in determining the cash needs  
26 of the recipient of a category of aid, and who is determined by the Department of Human Services  
27 to be essential to the well-being of the recipient of a category of aid.

28 (h) Is a caretaker relative as defined in ORS 412.001 who cares for a dependent child receiving  
29 aid granted under ORS 412.001 to 412.069 and 418.647 or is the spouse of the caretaker relative.

30 (i) Is under the age of 21 years, is in a youth care center and is one for whom a public agency  
31 of this state is assuming financial responsibility, in whole or in part.

32 (j) Is under the age of 21 years and is in an intermediate care facility which includes institutions  
33 for persons with mental retardation; or is under the age of 22 years and is in a psychiatric hospital.

34 (k) Is under the age of 21 years and is in an independent living situation with all or part of the  
35 maintenance cost paid by the Department of Human Services.

36 (L) Is a member of a family that received aid in the preceding month under ORS 412.006 or  
37 412.014 and became ineligible for aid due to increased hours of or increased income from employ-  
38 ment. As long as the member of the family is employed, such families will continue to be eligible for  
39 medical assistance for a period of at least six calendar months beginning with the month in which  
40 such family became ineligible for assistance due to increased hours of employment or increased  
41 earnings.

42 (m) Is an adopted person under 21 years of age for whom a public agency is assuming financial  
43 responsibility in whole or in part.

44 (n) Is an individual or is a member of a group who is required by federal law to be included in  
45 the state's medical assistance program in order for that program to qualify for federal funds.

1 (o) Is an individual or member of a group who, subject to the rules of the department [*and within*  
2 *available funds*], may optionally be included in the state's medical assistance program under federal  
3 law and regulations concerning the availability of federal funds for the expenses of that individual  
4 or group.

5 (p) Is a pregnant woman who would be eligible for aid granted under ORS 412.001 to 412.069 and  
6 418.647, whether or not the woman is eligible for cash assistance.

7 (q) Except as otherwise provided in this section and to the extent of available funds, is a preg-  
8 nant woman or child for whom federal financial participation is available under Title XIX of the  
9 federal Social Security Act.

10 (r) Is not otherwise categorically needy and is not eligible for care under Title XVIII of the  
11 federal Social Security Act or is not a full-time student in a post-secondary education program as  
12 defined by the Department of Human Services by rule, but whose family income is less than the  
13 federal poverty level and whose family investments and savings equal less than the investments and  
14 savings limit established by the department by rule.

15 (s) Would be eligible for a category of aid but for the receipt of qualified long term care insur-  
16 ance benefits under a policy or certificate issued on or after January 1, 2008. As used in this para-  
17 graph, "qualified long term care insurance" means a policy or certificate of insurance as defined in  
18 ORS 743.652 (6).

19 (3) "Income" has the meaning given that term in ORS 411.704.

20 (4) "Investments and savings" means cash, securities as defined in ORS 59.015, negotiable in-  
21 struments as defined in ORS 73.0104 and such similar investments or savings as the Department of  
22 Human Services may establish by rule that are available to the applicant or recipient to contribute  
23 toward meeting the needs of the applicant or recipient.

24 (5) "Medical assistance" means so much of the following medical and remedial care and services  
25 as may be prescribed by the Department of Human Services according to the standards established  
26 pursuant to ORS 414.065, including payments made for services provided under an insurance or  
27 other contractual arrangement and money paid directly to the recipient for the purchase of medical  
28 care:

29 (a) Inpatient hospital services, other than services in an institution for mental diseases;

30 (b) Outpatient hospital services;

31 (c) Other laboratory and X-ray services;

32 (d) Skilled nursing facility services, other than services in an institution for mental diseases;

33 (e) Physicians' services, whether furnished in the office, the patient's home, a hospital, a skilled  
34 nursing facility or elsewhere;

35 (f) Medical care, or any other type of remedial care recognized under state law, furnished by  
36 licensed practitioners within the scope of their practice as defined by state law;

37 (g) Home health care services;

38 (h) Private duty nursing services;

39 (i) Clinic services;

40 (j) Dental services;

41 (k) Physical therapy and related services;

42 (L) Prescribed drugs, including those dispensed and administered as provided under ORS chapter  
43 689;

44 (m) Dentures and prosthetic devices; and eyeglasses prescribed by a physician skilled in diseases  
45 of the eye or by an optometrist, whichever the individual may select;

1 (n) Other diagnostic, screening, preventive and rehabilitative services;

2 (o) Inpatient hospital services, skilled nursing facility services and intermediate care facility  
3 services for individuals 65 years of age or over in an institution for mental diseases;

4 (p) Any other medical care, and any other type of remedial care recognized under state law;

5 (q) Periodic screening and diagnosis of individuals under the age of 21 years to ascertain their  
6 physical or mental impairments, and such health care, treatment and other measures to correct or  
7 ameliorate impairments and chronic conditions discovered thereby;

8 (r) Inpatient hospital services for individuals under 22 years of age in an institution for mental  
9 diseases; and

10 (s) Hospice services.

11 (6) "Medical assistance" includes any care or services for any individual who is a patient in a  
12 medical institution or any care or services for any individual who has attained 65 years of age or  
13 is under 22 years of age, and who is a patient in a private or public institution for mental diseases.  
14 "Medical assistance" includes "health services" as defined in ORS 414.705. "Medical assistance"  
15 does not include care or services for an inmate in a nonmedical public institution.

16 (7) "Medically needy" means a person who is a resident of this state and who is considered el-  
17 igible under federal law for medically needy assistance.

18 (8) "Resources" has the meaning given that term in ORS 411.704. For eligibility purposes, "re-  
19 sources" does not include charitable contributions raised by a community to assist with medical  
20 expenses.

21 **SECTION 13. ORS 411.750, 411.790, 411.860, 411.865 and 416.810 are repealed.**

22 **SECTION 14. Except as provided in section 15 of this 2009 Act, sections 1 to 4 of this 2009  
23 Act and the amendments to ORS 293.321, 411.105, 411.220, 411.710, 411.720, 411.730 and 414.025  
24 by sections 6 to 12 of this 2009 Act become operative on January 1, 2010.**

25 **SECTION 15. The Department of Human Services may take any action before the oper-  
26 ative date specified in section 14 of this 2009 Act that is necessary to exercise, on and after  
27 the operative date specified in section 14 of this 2009 Act, all the duties, functions and powers  
28 conferred on the department by sections 1 to 4 of this 2009 Act and the amendments to ORS  
29 293.321, 411.105, 411.220, 411.710, 411.720, 411.730 and 414.025 by sections 6 to 12 of this 2009  
30 Act.**

31 **SECTION 16. This 2009 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
32 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2009 Act takes effect  
33 on its passage.**

34