

EMPOWERING OREGONIANS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



“Being able to live at home with a support service provider gives me independence and makes me feel like I’m part of my community. Everyone that wants this choice should be able to have this basic right.”

LADDIE REID
& SERVICE PROVIDER JOY’E WILLMAN
PORTLAND, OREGON

SB 559

SB 640

Choosing where and how we live and participating in our communities are fundamental rights. Oregon should ensure these rights for people with developmental disabilities.

Oregon’s developmental disabilities program provides services for over 21,000 people with developmental disabilities. SB 559 and SB 640 make critical fixes to the system to maximize self-determination for Oregonians with disabilities – ensuring that they have real choice about the support and services they receive.



Partners for Dignity, Autonomy & Choice

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#1: SB 559

Providing choice in comprehensive care placement

THE PROBLEM

Currently, Oregonians with developmental disabilities who are placed in comprehensive care have little choice about where they live or receive services. The decision is largely determined by their County Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP) case manager.

In addition, when decisions are made about placement for employment opportunities in group homes, people who receive services within the group home are often given preference for job placement over eligible, qualified people who live outside the group home.

SB 559 gives Oregonians with developmental disabilities a voice in choosing where they live and provides equal opportunity in job placements.

- SB 559 requires CDDP case managers to provide people with disabilities with the opportunity to select from at least three placement options. At least two of the options must be different types of settings (e.g. the choice must not be between three adult foster homes, but it could be between two adult foster homes and one group home). This ensures that Oregonians with developmental disabilities have a voice in determining where they live and receive services.
- SB 559 also ensures that Oregonians with developmental disabilities have equal opportunity for job placements. Job placement for those seeking employment will be individually determined and not based on where they live.

#2: SB 640

Improving assessment of comprehensive care to ensure that changing support needs can be met and providing greater rate transparency to providers and consumers.

THE PROBLEM

Currently, Oregonians with developmental disabilities in comprehensive care are assessed once every five years to determine the funding that their service providers will receive.

If a person's support needs change within the five years between assessments, it is very difficult to receive a reassessment of service needs for appropriate funding. Often, service providers are forced to file an exit notice to force the county to reassess service funding. Even if the provider has no intention of following through with the exit, this process can be disruptive and emotionally harmful to the person receiving services.

SB 640 improves the service reassessment process to meet changing service needs.

- If a person receiving the services, the service provider, family members, and/or guardians has documentation that a change is needed, they can request a service reassessment from DHS. DHS must conduct the reassessment within 90 days of receiving the request.
- SB 640 directs DHS to provide the person receiving the services, the service providers, family members, and/or guardians with the service assessment that would show a detailed description of how the rate was assessed and what services can be expected.