

**Department of Human Services  
Oregon Project Independence Pilot**

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The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of a report on an Oregon Project Independence pilot project serving younger adults with disabilities.

The Department of Human Services received \$3 million from the Special Purpose Appropriation for Seniors for a pilot project to expand Oregon Project Independence to people with disabilities who are under age 60. The agency selected seven local Agency Areas on Aging to participate in the pilot.

The agency reports that 287 individuals in 13 counties have been served by the pilot project, with an expected 450 participants served by the end of the biennium. Dominant client characteristics include being between ages 50 and 59, receiving disability income, having Medicare coverage, living alone, having a monthly income of less than \$1,500, and assessing as moderate to high risk for out of home placement.

DHS estimates that a biennial General Fund appropriation of at least \$27.5 million would be needed to support an expanded, age-neutral OPI program. If adequate funding were to be provided, the agency is prepared to work with stakeholders to develop a plan for transitioning to an expanded program.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends acknowledging receipt of the report.