

4 Percent Rate Increase Update

The 2015 Oregon Legislature approved House Bill 5026, a portion of which funded a **four percent rate increase to specific intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) provider agencies**. The corresponding budget note stated: “The legislative expectation is that compensation (wages and/or benefits) for direct care staff in programs serving people with IDD should be increased by at least four percent during 2015-17 biennium.”

The rate increase impacted providers delivering the following:

- 24-hour group home services for adults and children
- Supported living services
- Employment and community inclusion services

The four percent rate increase was given to providers effective January 1, 2016 with the expectation that direct care staff experience an increase during the 2015–2017 biennium. Providers were required to submit a plan to ODDS showing how the organization implemented the 4 percent increase in wages and/or benefits.

To ensure full implementation of the rate increase and legislative expectations, ODDS provided each impacted provider a letter explaining the new rates and guidance around wage and/or benefit increases to Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). ODDS gave each provider a flier to be posted in a location their impacted employees frequent. The flier explained the requirements and provided an email address (HB5026.FourPercent@state.or.us) to express any questions or concerns.

The tables below shows how providers chose to implement increases:

	Total responders	Increased wages	Increased benefits	Increased both
24-hour group homes	89	87	35	33
Supported living	51	51	19	19
Employment and community Inclusion	119	117	36	34
Grand total	259	255	90	86