

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

The Compass Project

The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) launched the Compass Project in late 2017. The compass was chosen to highlight ODDS' reorientation to its North Star of person-centered-planning. The Compass Project is a large body of work, including:

Strategic plan

With the significant shift of the I/DD system into a new federal program called the K Plan, new federal and state mandates, and other changes, ODDS and its partners saw the need for a deliberate and thoughtful process to develop a strategic plan. The plan was finalized June 2018 and guides this work.



Oregon Needs Assessment

Federal law requires each person under the K Plan to have a functional needs assessment. ODDS worked with Mission Analytics, OHSU and stakeholders to develop a new, validated and normed assessment. The new assessment, called the Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA), has been in use since 2018.

Service Groups

The Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA) created the foundation to develop service groups. ODDS contracted with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to develop a valid and reliable way to group people in similar ages with similar levels of support needs. The person's service group would in the future correlate to the in-home hour authorization amounts and service rates paid to providers. After extensive stakeholder input, the service groups were adopted in late 2019 for rollout in 2020.

Rates

Transparent rate models that align with the expectation for competent, well-trained providers who deliver safe, high-quality services that maximizes independence and integration is another part of reorienting the system. Many of the existing rate models are at least a decade old.

To develop new rate models, ODDS met with providers and conducted cost studies. An outside rate-setting expert developed new models based on that data and the new service groups. Agreements were made on the distribution of rate increases and when providers would begin being paid based on service groups.

Reorient our focus to person-centered planning

The requirement to have a functional needs assessment has caused many to feel the I/DD system has lost its focus on person-centered planning. ODDS is reorienting the system's focus to ensure self-determination and choice are truly embedded in the planning process. A new approach will use the LifeCourse framework to support a strengths-based approach that will be informed, but not driven, by the functional needs assessment, and will have a holistic focus on a whole life, rather than the narrow focus on Medicaid-funded services.

Waiver, policy and rule

Part of this reorientation requires that ODDS make changes to the waivers, state plan (K-Plan), Oregon administrative rules, and policies to meet the strategic goal of creating a system that is sustainable, easy to use, with effective communication and equitable access. ODDS has received waiver approvals for changes to support the Compass Project and continues to update waivers and rules as needed.

Updates to the eXPRS system

This system is how service payments are made, client data is tracked and more. Many of the changes through the Compass Project necessitate detailed changes to the eXPRS system. ODDS works with its case management entities and others to provide timely updates to the system in support of the Compass Project.

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