



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**Department of Human Services**

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## **Department of Human Services 2021 Legislative Concepts**

Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) touches one in four Oregonians. We make sure that everyone can reach their potential and fully contribute to our communities. As we move through this moment of acute crisis, we lift up our shared values and use them as a guide for what comes next. In a budget environment like this, every policy and funding decision should lead us to the future we want: a fair and just society where every one of us can thrive. As we rebuild, we are focusing on 3 key priorities that will help achieve this goal 1) equity and inclusion, 2) safety and prevention, 3) efficiencies and alignment.

### **Equity and inclusion**

Improving access to programs for historically underserved populations, including Oregonians with disabilities.

- Enhance services for deaf and hard of hearing population (Aging and People with Disabilities)
- Supported Decision Making as a less restrictive alternative to guardianships (Aging and People with Disabilities and Office of Development Disability Services)
- Model Employer program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (Office of Development Disability Services)
- Increase support and membership of the Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission to include family members and biological parents involved in the foster care system (Child Welfare)

### **Prevention and safety**

Focusing on preventative human services programs that build well-being throughout people's lives which often serve multiple generations within a family and ensuring client privacy.

- Support families and provide prevention services to avoid the need for children and youth from entering care (Child Welfare)
- Exempt addresses of ODDS homes and facilities from public record requests to ensure privacy of clients (Office of Development Disability Services)
- Clarify implementation of I/DD children abuse statutes (Office of Development Disability Services)
- Remove identified barriers to permanency (Child Welfare)
- Prevent minors from being charged with prostitution (Child Welfare)

**“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”**

## **Efficiencies and alignment**

Removing barriers using research, data and analytics, technical fixes and technology infrastructure for the Oregon Department and of Human Services.

- Align residential care and training facility statutes with adult foster homes (Office of Developmental Disability Services)
- Correct contradictions in statutes to enable Independent Resident Facilities to be authorized, certified and licensed (Office of Training, Investigations and Safety)
- Eliminate separate Child-Caring Agencies Fund to avoid unnecessary bank fees (Office of Training, Investigations and Safety)
- Expands time frames for placement and clarifies the use of telehealth in Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (Child Welfare)
- Avoid overpayments by making timely benefit suspensions as required by federal mandates (Office Payment Accuracy and Recovery)
- Capture the Office of the Human Services Ombuds and codify its' scope in statute (Governor's Advocacy Office)
- Extend the existing confidentiality protections for child abuse investigation records to cover all child abuse investigations (Office of Training, Investigations and Safety)
- Makes updates to statute to reflect changes made by the case management bill in the 2019 Legislative Session (Office of Developmental Disability Services)

### **For more information please contact:**

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