



ODHS Policy Directions

Pursuing our vision in 2023-25

Fariborz Pakseresht, Director
Oregon Department of Human Services
September 22, 2022

Building well-being together

Everyone in Oregon deserves an opportunity to build well-being, reach their potential, and fully contribute to their communities.

ODHS serves more than 1 in 3 Oregonians and is well positioned to benefit entire communities – if we can redesign a human services system that has long legacies of racial and economic inequity and a piecemeal service network that leaves many behind.

Our job is to partner with communities and dismantle the barriers so that everyone in Oregon can access the supports they need to thrive.



Supporting well-being across the lifespan

Effective supports at one stage of life contribute to greater well-being over the rest of our lives.

OregONEligibility



Program	Birth	Adulthood	Final stages of life
OregONEligibility	Yes	Yes	No
Child Welfare Division	Yes	Yes	No
Self-Sufficiency Programs	Yes	Yes	No
Vocational Rehabilitation	No	Yes	Yes
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services	Yes	Yes	No
Aging and People with Disabilities	No	Yes	Yes

Child Welfare Division

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Vocational Rehabilitation

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

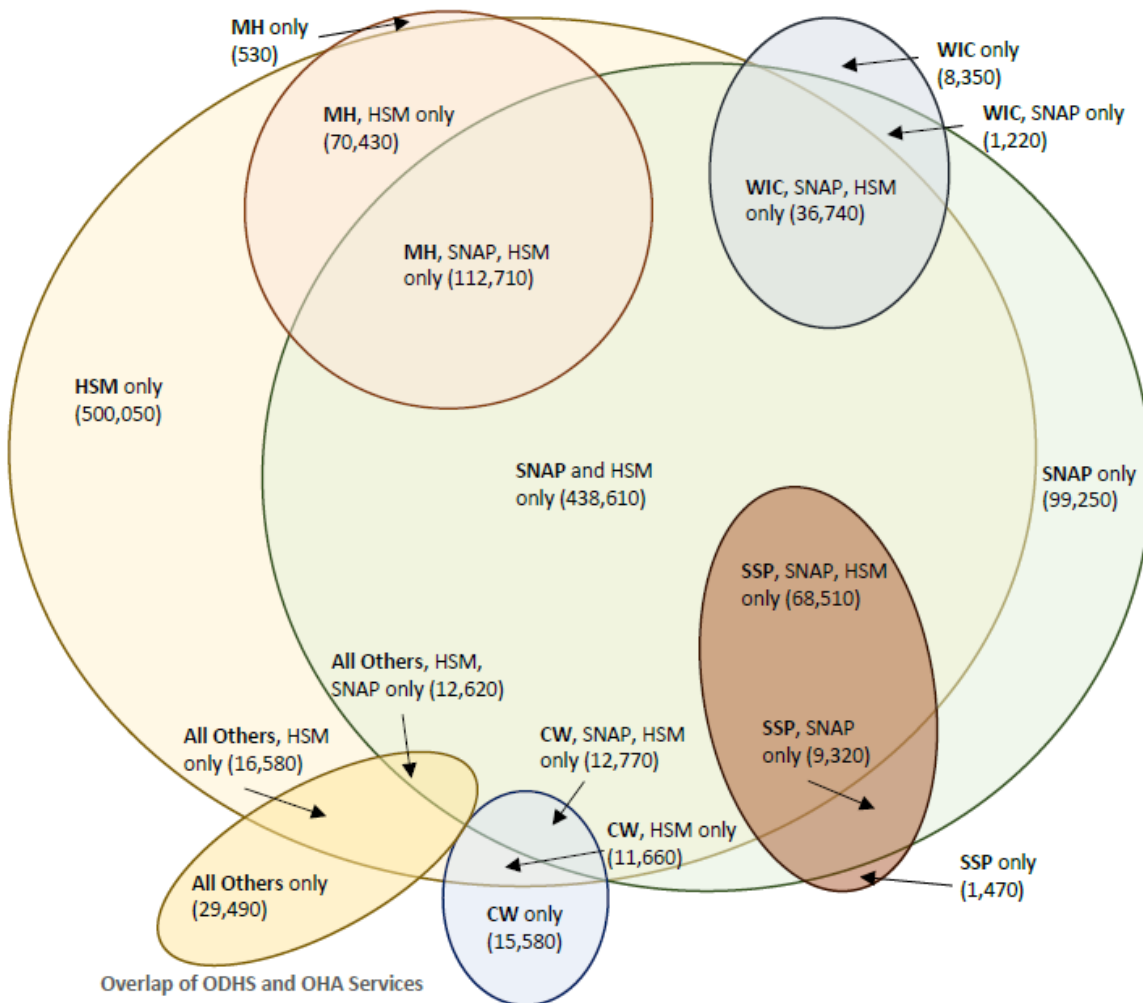
Aging and People with Disabilities

Birth

Adulthood

*Final stages
of life*

Serving people across programs



1,628,790 Adults and Youth Served by ODHS and OHA in 2021

- 1,455,380 served by Health Services Medicaid (HSM)
- 900,330 served by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- 140,170 served by Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP) other than SNAP
- 82,120 served by Child Welfare
- 83,890 served by All Others including Aging and People with Disabilities, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.
- 257,820 served by Mental Health (MH)
- 109,440 served by Women Infants and Children (WIC)

How our programs impact communities

People with disabilities can participate more fully in jobs and community.

People can pay their bills and focus on their families' well-being instead of on financial stress.

Families have the support they need to build healthy foundations at home for children's brain development.



Kids are better fed, helping them be ready to learn at school.

People are safer during emergencies and disasters.

Older adults are healthier and better able to share their culture, abilities and wisdom with younger people.

Advancing a profound culture change

Where we've been



People trapped by regulation

Agencies determine what's best for the community and people.

If the need isn't prescribed by agency rules, staff say "no" or pass the individual on to someone else.

Regulations are at the center of many decisions and some services are one-size-fits-all.

Where we're headed



People free to pursue goals

People and community are the experts in their own lives.

Staff guide people through paperwork, go to clients, do the legwork to find supports.

People, not regulations, are at the center of decisions and services are tailored to their needs.

Building Well-being Together

How we're getting there:

Three agencywide priorities



**Strengthening
our foundations**

**Building capacity to serve
our communities more
equitably and effectively.**



**Preparing for
and responding
to emergencies**

**Helping in times of disaster
and investing in community
preparedness year-round**



**Creating
the future of
human services**

**Addressing inequity by
co-creating solutions with
communities.**

Major ODHS legislative concepts

- **Community-based organizations grant fund**
Legislative Concept 369 | Self-Sufficiency Programs
- **Employment First**
Legislative Concept 368 | Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
- **Expanding Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**
Legislative Concept 370 | Self-Sufficiency Programs
- **Stabilizing our long-term care workforce**
Legislative Concept 337 | Office of Aging and People with Disabilities
- **Sexual orientation and gender identity confidentiality**
Legislative Concept 339 | Child Welfare Division



Community-based organizations grant fund

Legislative Concept 369

- Human services work best when government and community act as partners in providing the supports people need to thrive.
- **Community-Based Organizations** (CBOs) are deeply connected to their communities and have a first-hand understanding of local needs, putting them in a unique position to deliver effective, equitable and cost-saving services that are closely tailored to community goals. But CBOs often lack the resources they need to do this work.
- ODHS proposes that a fund be created to help CBOs enact local solutions, prioritizing CBOs that serve Black, Indigenous and People of Color.



Employment First

Legislative Concept 368

- **Oregon is at its best when everyone has the supports they need to reach their employment and career goals.** This value drives ODHS' ongoing efforts to promote and enhance employment services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), supporting their ongoing inclusion in the workforce.
- LC 368 proposes strategies to integrate Employment First policy from the Lane v. Brown Settlement Agreement and Executive Orders 13-04 and 15-01 into state statute, formalizing Oregon's status as an Employment First state and **ensuring continued supports for people with I/DD in obtaining and retaining jobs** in their communities.



Ensuring TANF is available to families when they need it

Legislative Concept 370

- Families' economic stability is a key ingredient in family well-being and children's healthy brain development. When we **improve the ways we support families**, we maximize their potential for supportive adult-child relationships at home.
- One way we can do this is by expanding federally-prescribed TANF time limits when appropriate, making sure families get the support they need to achieve stability and better health.
- This change would allow us the flexibility to meet families' diverse needs and support healthy development for more Oregon children.



Stabilizing our long-term care workforce

Legislative Concept 337

- We have a shared obligation to ensure that Oregonians can **access long-term care** where and when they need it.
- The pandemic has contributed to a **long-term care workforce crisis** that ODHS and partners are addressing on a number of fronts.
- Among these efforts is a proposal to allow entry-level personal care assistants to gain **credit toward becoming Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs)** through on-the-job experience.



SOGIE confidentiality

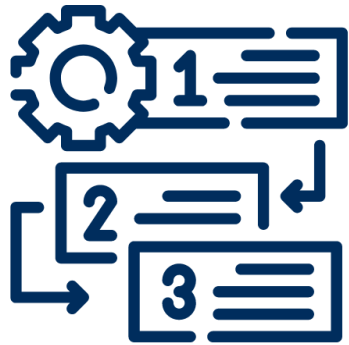
Legislative Concept 380

- All Oregon **youth should have access to the services and supports** they need to thrive.
- Nationally, LGBTQIA2S+ youth are overrepresented in foster care systems. In Oregon, however, we don't collect information about the sexual orientation or gender identity expression (SOGIE) of young people in care, which **hinders our ability to tailor services to their needs**.
- Before we can begin to collect that information, we need to make sure that we can protect identifying SOGIE information from disclosure in legal proceedings, including juvenile dependency or termination of parental rights proceedings.



Policy option highlights

TANF Redesign



Healthier Oregon Program



Employment Related Day Care



Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement



Office of Resilience and Emergency Management





Questions?
