



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**Oregon Department of Human Services**

*Office of the Director*

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February 24, 2021

Representative Anna Williams, Chair  
Representative Gary Leif, Vice-Chair  
Representative Ricki Ruiz, Vice-Chair  
Members of the House Human Services Committee

From: The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)

Re: House Bill (HB) 2119 Public Hearing

**Introduction:**

HB 2119 was introduced by Governor Brown on behalf of the Oregon Military Department (OMD) to shift responsibility for passing potential federal funds to a 2-1-1 system provider from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to ODHS.

**Background:**

In 2005, HB 3443 was passed and established the existing statutory language regarding Oregon's 2-1-1 system. At the time it was believed that federal funding could come available to support states in implementing 2-1-1 systems and that a state entity would need to receive those funds. As OEM was already responsible for Oregon's 9-1-1 system, the potential account for federal funds and responsibility for distributing said funds was placed with OEM. Federal funds were never made available; however, Oregon does have a statewide 2-1-1 system in place operated by 211info. In 2020, 211info made nearly 400,000 contacts including more than 100,000 requests for housing, 63,000 requests for health care, and 36,000 requests for utility services.

**What this bill does:**

ODHS has several contracts with 211info so that they can connect Oregonians with resources and assist them in accessing information about our programs. Due to this existing relationship, ODHS is better suited to pass along potential federal funds than OEM. HB 2119 -2 shifts the responsibility for passing potential federal funds from OEM to ODHS and modifies dated and misleading language in statute that was established prior to the implementation of Oregon's 2-1-1 system.

**Summary:**

In the event Oregon receives federal funds to support the statewide 2-1-1 system, HB 2119-2 will enable the department to pass these federal funds to the 2-1-1 system provider.

**For more information please contact:**

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