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November 3, 2023
Representative Rob Nosse, Chair
House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Medicaid (2022-2027) 1115 Waiver

Dear Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

Per your request, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is providing a written update on the Medicaid 1115 Waiver. This correspondence provides a general update on the timeline for Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) services rollout and focuses on next steps regarding Community Capacity Building and Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) service provider qualifications.

Background

Under the 2022-2027 1115 Waiver, Oregon is approved to provide certain HRSN benefits to eligible populations. HRSN services include supports related to housing, nutrition, and climate-related emergencies, as well as outreach and engagement activities. The timeline for rollout for these services is as follows:

- 1/1/2024-Climate change services (including air conditioners and air filters) will be available to eligible Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members
- 11/1/2024-Housing benefits available for eligible OHP members “at risk” for homelessness
- 1/1/2025-Nutrition benefits available for eligible members
- 2025/2026 (exact dates TBD) -Housing services launch for remaining eligible populations, including members experiencing homelessness

Community Capacity Building

Under the waiver, Oregon is allowed to spend up to \$119 million in community capacity building funding to support HRSN providers and partners in delivering HRSN services. Community Capacity Building funding can be used to support four discrete areas:

- Technology
- Developing operational practices
- Workforce development

- Outreach and education

OHA will distribute these funds to the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), which in turn distribute to the community-based organizations & HRSN providers. There will be 2-3 rounds of Community Capacity Building Funding to which providers can apply. Dates have yet to be finalized, but implantation is slated to happen in the winter of 2023/2024.

HRSN Providers

Providers will need to register with either the CCO or fee-for-service program. However, they do not need to be enrolled as Medicaid providers. Service provider minimum qualifications are currently under discussion, and include:

- Strong community relationships with readiness to serve eligible populations
- Ability to provide culturally and linguistically responsive and trauma-informed service delivery
- Business licensing or accreditation that meets state and industry standards
- Ability to receive referrals, report on service delivery, and invoice for services
- History of responsible financial practices and compliance with all reporting, oversight, and business registration requirements

Detailed information on the Waiver can be found by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for your interest in this important initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Baden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dave" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Baden".

Sincerely,

Dave Baden
Interim Director