

October 1, 2024

To: Chair Jones and Vice Chair Burns, HB 3396 Hospital Discharge Challenges Task Force

Re: Agency response regarding task force recommendation for Presumptive Eligibility plan

On September 17, 2024, key executives from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) convened to discuss policy recommendations to be made on behalf of the Hospital Discharge Challenges Task Force and implementation strategy regarding developing an expedited Presumptive Eligibility (PE) benefits approval process. In attendance were:

- Emma Sandoe (Director of Medicaid Division, OHA)
- Vivian Levy (Deputy Director of Medicaid Division, OHA)
- Holly Heiberg (Medicaid Policy Director, OHA)
- Nikki Olson (Interim Deputy Director of Health Policy and Analytics, OHA)
- Jane-ellen Weidanz (Deputy Director of Policy, Aging and People with Disabilities, ODHS)
- Regan Sheeley (ODHS) & Katie Mayward (OHA)

The consensus of this meeting was that OHA and ODHS have the capacity to convene key partners to develop a plan for implementing and funding Presumptive Eligibility in Oregon within the timeline requested by the task force. The leadership continues to work on the assumption that a waiver is needed because there is no desire to only use state general funds for this policy at this time. This high-level plan presents work that agencies can undertake within specific future timeframes.

October 2024 – June 2025-

With existing resources, this plan includes:

- 1) Conduct research and collaborate with states that have operationalized similar policies (North Carolina, Rhode Island and Washington at a minimum) to develop possible future waiver iterations.
- 2) Explore and evaluate options for actuarial analysis conducted by other states who have operationalized Presumptive Eligibility for fiscal impact of similar implementation in Oregon.
- 3) Continue cross-agency executive sponsor planning sessions and report progress and/or barriers periodically or as needed.

July 2025 – December 2025-

Assuming that the Oregon legislature issues a mandate for position authority and necessary funding during the 2025 Legislative Session activities would include:

- 1) Hire and/or assign cross-agency lead project manager and support staff.
- 2) Form internal Steering Committee and external Advisory Group.
- 3) Establish work streams dedicated to waiver application, IT systems exploration, infrastructure construction, communications/change management, and 27-29 and 30-31 fiscal impacts.
- 4) Creation of a policy analysis by OHA's Health Policy and Analytics Division exploring wider economic and health impacts of Presumptive Eligibility as a policy in Oregon.

January 2026 and beyond-

- 1) Ongoing development for the 2027 waiver application deadline with consideration for Presumptive Eligibility as a policy request of CMS.
- 2) Submit waiver application in 2027. OHA/ODHS cannot guarantee when or if the waiver will be approved as written.
- 3) Continue project work including infrastructure buildout in anticipation of waiver approval and contingency planning.

Due to the complexity of Presumptive Eligibility as a policy, OHA/ODHS request that the task force includes in their recommendation additional technical assistance to agencies, as we examine similar policies and generate a plan for Presumptive Eligibility in Oregon.

Our desire in this brief was to reiterate the support of the agencies to develop a plan to explore the implementation of an expedited benefits approval process in Oregon as well as to set some expectations regarding barriers to funding and timelines that we can already anticipate in the pursuit of this policy recommendation. Please let us know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

OHA & ODHS Task Force Appointees and Leadership Teams