

Senate Bill 1074

Sponsored by Senator PATTERSON, Representatives DIEHL, MANNIX, EVANS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Health Authority to administer two-year demonstration project in two counties to test whether expanding scope of compensable services provided by community health workers can improve outcomes for low-income families and children at risk of entering foster care system.

Sunset January 2, 2028.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to community health worker services; and prescribing an effective date.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:

4
5 (a) **“Community health worker” has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.**

6 (b) **“Social services” means services provided to a family to support the family’s need for**
7 **subsistence, including but not limited to:**

8 (A) **Temporary assistance for needy families aid under ORS 412.006;**

9 (B) **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits under ORS 411.816;**

10 (C) **Women, Infants and Children Program benefits under ORS 413.500;**

11 (D) **Public housing or federal, state or local housing assistance; or**

12 (E) **Medical assistance, as defined in ORS 414.025.**

13 (2) **The Oregon Health Authority shall administer a two-year demonstration project in**
14 **Marion and Polk Counties designed to reduce the overall burden and cost on social services**
15 **systems while improving outcomes for low-income families, including by keeping children out**
16 **of the foster care system. The demonstration project will give community health workers**
17 **flexibility in working with families with children who are receiving or eligible to receive so-**
18 **cial services, or who are at risk of entering the foster care system, by enabling the com-**
19 **munity health workers to be compensated for providing services to the families that are**
20 **based on and focused on addressing an assessment of a family’s social determinants of health**
21 **and that are otherwise not reimbursed by the state.**

22 (3) **The demonstration project will use the Activate Care technology platform or a similar**
23 **platform that allows for tracking of data and referrals across all state and local agencies and**
24 **community-based organizations working with a family or available to serve a family’s needs.**
25 **The authority shall use the data from the platform to associate services that are not cur-**
26 **rently reimbursed with existing billing codes so that, if the project is successful, the services**
27 **can be integrated into the state billing system to be reimbursed in the future.**

28 (4) **The authority shall track the data and referrals and conduct assessments of families**
29 **working with community health workers in the demonstration project to monitor health**
30 **outcomes and other measures of well-being developed by the authority.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (5) No later than September 15, 2027, the authority shall report to interim committees
2 of the Legislative Assembly related to human services, in the manner provided in ORS
3 192.245, on the effectiveness of the demonstration project in:

- 4 (a) Improving health outcomes for and financial stability of families;
5 (b) Reducing overall costs to and burdens on state agencies; and
6 (c) Improving the safety and well-being of children.

7 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act becomes operative on January 2, 2024. The Oregon
8 Health Authority shall enter into contracts and take all steps prior to January 2, 2024, that
9 are necessary to begin the demonstration project described in section 1 of this 2023 Act on
10 January 2, 2024.

11 **SECTION 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2028.

12 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
13 ated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the
14 General Fund, the amount of \$_____, which may be expended for carrying out section 1 of
15 this 2023 Act.

16 **SECTION 5.** This 2023 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2023
17 regular session of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.
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