



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Human Services

ODDS

500 Summer St NE, E15

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-945-5600

FAX: 503-581-6918



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services

To: Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

From: Oregon Department of Human Services

Subject: Follow-up responses from January 14, 2026 hearing

Date: January 28, 2026

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Committee:

At your hearing on January 14, 2026, Senator Gelser Blouin asked several questions relating to LC 280 provisions that required follow up.

Please see the requested information below:

CEN Expansion Calculations Based on Various Rates

In summarizing the provision of LC 280 concerning a rate differential for direct support professionals (DSPs) who reside with the individuals they serve, Chair Gelser Blouin stated:

The idea with this ... you've got a population of about 1800 kids, and right now we can afford to serve about 130 of them capped at 20 hours a week. If we took out the overhead that facilitates these individuals providing the service, you could substantially cut that hourly rate to the extent that, if you were looking only at that Children with Exceptional Needs [waiver], you could increase the number of hours that they provide each week to 40, and serve everybody that is eligible for that, and it would cost less than what we do today.

To clarify, ODDS has not priced out the savings that would be realized if we applied this rate differential immediately to every DSP across the entire system that resides with the person they support and how that could change funding available for CEN in future years. We have

priced out the differential rate if it were applied *only* to paid parent providers under the CEN waiver, within the current CEN appropriation. The reason we limit our calculation to this population is that implementation of a differential rate would be achievable within six months of legislative direction, given the known and quantifiable pool of providers, as well as the unique service code under which they bill their time. Applying a differential rate systemwide for all DSPs who reside with the people they serve would require additional time. We wanted to provide the CEN-specific data here to follow up on the discussion from Wednesday’s discussion of the omnibus in relation to CEN.

To estimate possible scenarios for increasing the CEN point-in-time waiver capacity if a lower agency rate for providers who live with the person they support was adopted, as directed in LC280, ODDS made the following assumptions:

- Utilization rate: 90% of allowed hours
- GF 3.43 mil/ FF 4.76 mil/ TF 8.19 mil
- Enrollment Acceptance rate: 100%, since the point of the exercise was to identify the *maximum number* of children served given various rates.

ODDS also ran scenarios with both a 20- and 40-hour weekly cap to compare capacity differences.

Finally, ODDS inverted the exercise to estimate, with various rates, how many hours per week each child could receive if the program served all children who are in service group 5b or 5m. We used three rates for this exercise: the current standard model agency rate, the current employer model agency rate, and a \$28.00/hour rate mentioned by Chair Gelser Blouin as a hypothetical in a meeting with ODDS.

How many children could the CEN waiver serve (point-in-time count) at a particular hourly rate?	Waiver Capacity @20 hrs/week	Waiver Capacity @40 hrs/week
Current Standard Model rate of \$42.24	214*	107
Employer Model Rate of \$35.44	255	128

Hypothetical Provider Rate of \$28.00	322	161
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*This is the maximum capacity the current appropriated CEN budget, approved provider rates, and utilization trends through December 2025 will allow. ODDS plans to begin the waiver amendment process shortly to increase the cap from the current limit of 155 to 214 effective July 1, 2026.

Looking at this narrower population of *only* CEN providers, if a differential rate were implemented and we opened up the CEN program to the entire population of children with very high behavioral and medical needs (“5b” and “5m” children), it would significantly reduce the number of weekly hours the current CEN appropriation would allow for each child.

How Many Weekly Hours Could Each Child Access if All 5b/m children (2,060) were enrolled in CEN at a Particular Hourly Rate?	
SMA Rate of \$42.24	2.08 hours
EMA Rate of \$35.44	2.48 hours
Hypothetical Provider Rate of \$28.00	3.13 hours

HB 2442 Crosswalk

In discussing the removal of some of the provisions from the so-called “HB 2442 Report” (referring to HB 2442 (2009)), Chair Gelser Blouin requested a crosswalk of the different elements of that report and where else the information could be found.

HB 2442 Item	Where to Find	Links
(A) The average turnover of direct care workers in service settings.	National Core Indicator (NCI) survey contains this information.	National Core Indicators - Oregon
(B) A Summary of the training provided by the Department or its contractors to case management and direct-care workers in service settings.	Provider agencies are responsible to ensure their direct care workers have the required trainings, as outlined in Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs). Training requirements are verified by the ODDS Licensing Unit every 2 years, with a sample size of 100%.	<p>Training Requirement OARs:</p> <p>Adult Foster Homes</p> <p>Employment Services</p> <p>24-Hour Residential</p> <p>Children’s Foster Homes</p> <p>Training for PSWs (provided by Homecare Commission)</p> <p>See Also:</p> <p>SC/PA Core Competencies Online Trainings</p> <p>DSP Core Competencies Online Trainings</p> <p>The Arc Oregon training calendar</p> <p>Oregon ISP Training calendar</p> <p>Oregon Intervention System (OIS) training calendar</p>
(C) A summary of the core competencies required of direct care workers in service settings by the state for licensing or certification.	Provider agencies are responsible to ensure their direct care workers have the required trainings, as outlined in OARs. Training requirements are verified by the ODDS Licensing Unit	DSP Core Competencies Online Trainings

	every 2 years, with a sample size of 100%.	
(D) A summary of the average wages of direct care workers in service settings, presented by type of services provided.	National Core Indicator (NCI) survey contains this information.	National Core Indicators - Oregon
(E) The number of complaints of abuse filed as required by ORS 430.765 (Duty of officials to report abuse) and received by the department under ORS 430.743 (Abuse report), reported by type of allegation.	OTIS Digital Data books contain this information – links in next column.	OTIS Digital Data books - includes abuse of people enrolled in DD services and death review for people in DD services
(F) The number of direct care workers in service settings who were subject to criminal or civil action involving an individual with a developmental disability.	OTIS Digital Data books contain this information – links in next column.	OTIS Digital Data books - includes abuse of people enrolled in DD services and death review for people in DD services
(G) The number of deaths, serious injuries, sexual assaults and rapes alleged to have occurred in service settings.	OTIS Digital Data books contain this information – links in next column.	OTIS Digital Data books - includes abuse of people enrolled in DD services and death review for people in DD services
(H) A schedule of all license fees and civil penalties established by rule pursuant to ORS 441.995, 443.455 and 443.790.	Oregon Administrative Rules contain this information – links in next column	<p>Adult Foster Home OARs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees (OAR 411-360-0050) • Civil Penalties (OAR 411-360-0260) <p>24-Hour Residential OARs</p>

For more information

Please contact Roberto Gutierrez, ODHS Government Relations Manager, at Roberto.Gutierrez@odhs.oregon.gov.