



## Presentation to the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services

# **House Bill 4129: Agency with Choice**

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# Agenda

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1. Overview of Agency with Choice
2. 2025 focus and implementation
  - Community and partner engagement
  - Rules
  - Rate and caseload assumptions
  - RFP and vendor selection
3. 2026 focus and next steps
4. Q+A



# Overview: House Bill 4129

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HB 4129 directs the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to:

- Create a new service model – Agency with Choice (AWC) – for individuals receiving in-home services.
- License and contract with no more than two Agency with Choice providers.
- Ensure comparable wages and benefits for care providers.
- Develop rules to ensure financial transparency.

# Overview: in-home service options

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## Independent Choices Program

Provider type:  
caregiver



## Consumer Employer Program

Provider type:  
homecare worker



## Agency with Choice

Provider type:  
direct support worker



## In-home Care Agencies

Provider type: caregiver

Oregon Health Authority, Medicaid Division | Behavioral Health

# Overview: in-home service options

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## Consumer Employer Program

Provider type:  
personal care attendant



## Agency with Choice

Provider type:  
direct support worker

# 2025 implementation

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Partner  
engagement



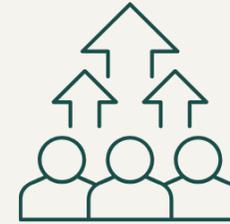
Rules



CMS  
approval



Rates



Caseload



Request for  
Proposals

# 2025: Community, staff and partner engagement

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## How we engaged

- Community messages and update meetings
- Mailings to consumers
- Consumer Advisory Committee
- Rules Advisory Committee



## Who we engaged

- SEIU 503 Local
- Service recipients
- Tribal partners
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Comagine IQA
- Community members
- Internal partners
- Staff



# 2025: Developing rules

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- Informed by community engagement and partner feedback
- Rule Advisory Committee sessions
- APD permanent rules published December 2025
- OHA temp rules posted August 2025



# 2025: Rate assumptions

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Rates will be the same  
for APD and OHA



## Rates cover:

Direct Support  
Worker wages

Direct Support  
Worker benefits

Employer payroll  
taxes

Administrative and  
operational costs

# 2025: Caseload projections

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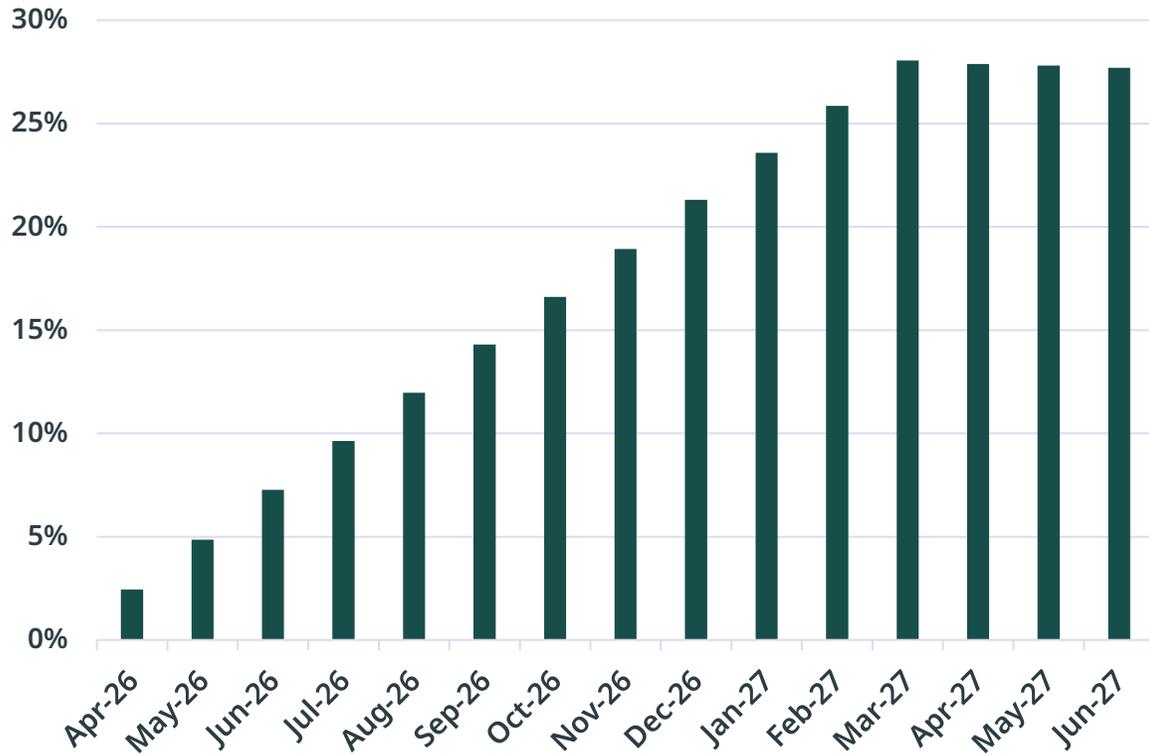


APD anticipates about 50 percent of people receiving services through a homecare worker will move to the AWC.

OHA anticipates about 90 percent of the people receiving services through a personal care attendant, and an expansion of individuals able to access in-home supports will move to the AWC.

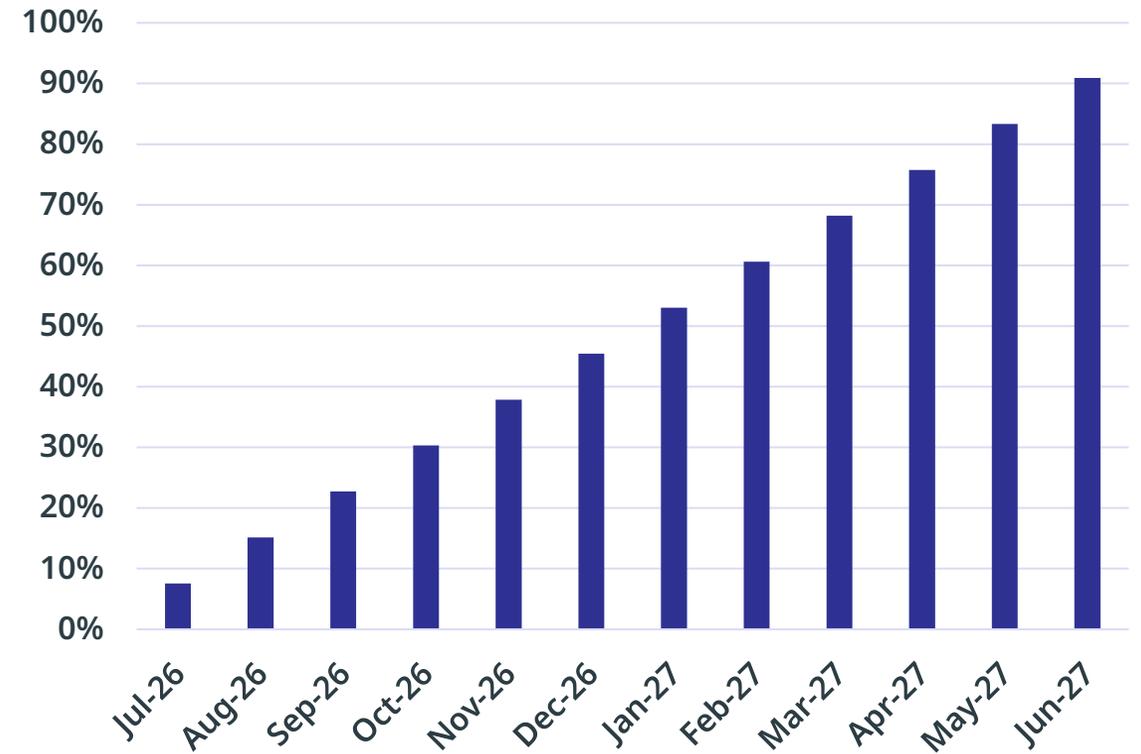
# Caseload estimates

## Percent of APD In-Home



Based on approx. 550 consumers per month moving to AWC out of 16,232 who receive in-home care.

## Percent of OHA In-Home



Based on approx. 100 consumers per month moving to AWC out of 1,320 expected to receive in-home care in a 12-month period.

# Vendor selection process

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## Request for Proposal



- APD/OHA received 5 proposals.
- Scoring committee included APD/OHA staff and community members.
- Top scored provider was selected to proceed with contract negotiations.

# Vendor selection

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## Guardian Trac Independence

- Expertise in self-directed models across multiple state and Medicaid authorities.
- Will serve as employer of record.
- Systems that support program accountability.
- Infrastructure to support workers and consumers.



# Vendor selection

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## Guardian Trac Independence

- Helps individuals to focus on directing their care.
- Simplified navigation of services for individuals.
- Well-coordinated onboarding for Direct Support Workers.
- Helps Direct Care Workers find work.



# Vendor compliance and accountability



## Accountability to consumers

- Policies that support choice
- Client privacy and recordkeeping standards
- Staff training standards
- Background check requirements for direct support workers



## Contract and licensing compliance

- Administrator qualifications
- Financial transparency and reporting
- Compliance inspections and license renewals
- Administrative Rules



## Federal compliance

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid standards
- Electronic Visit Verification
- Medicaid provider enrollment agreement

# Implementation delays

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Contract negotiations taking longer than anticipated:

- Rates must ensure benefits comparable to those for homecare workers and personal care attendants.

Ongoing negotiations indicate a need for a higher rate than proposed in the ODHS Budget Reduction.



# Next steps: 2026 focus

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## Goals and milestones



- Execute contracts
- Onboard GTI and collaborate on workgroups
- GTI Medicaid Provider Enrollment (PEA)



- Continue to inform consumers of new option
- Continue on-demand staff training
- Finalize rule making (OHA)



- Establish reporting cadence
- Refine internal processes
- Enhance quality assurance and data monitoring



# Questions



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