

Field Report on Oregon's 1115 Medicaid Waiver and Opportunities Regarding The Nutrition Supports:

On September 28th, 2022 the Oregon Health Authority Announced that Oregon will receive a \$1.1 billion Medicaid Waiver to address the root causes of poor health. This initiative aims to address both healthcare, nutrition support, and other food security concerns for people who qualify for the Oregon Health Plan ([Oregon Health Authority : Healthier Oregon : Oregon Health Plan : State of Oregon](#))

Media Announcement:

 [Oregon's 2022-2027 1115 Medicaid Waiver Announcement Media Availability](#)

How can OFB engage and support expanded food access with healthcare partners through the Medicaid Waiver?

- Influence the distribution of nearly \$1B in Medicaid funds to support food access to PEC communities. OFB's involvement in the development of food access strategies will ensure that PEC communities are prioritized.
- Support implementation of OHA's produce prescription waivers in a way that leverages existing programs (OCFSN Veggie Rx group) and ensures that any new programs are developed with equity and sustainability in mind.
- OFB's participation will ensure that produce prescription programs not only serve PEC communities but also support PEC farmers and food producers - focusing on developing just food systems.
- The Health Equity Advisory Council will be an important partner in making sure outreach about available nutrition supports under this new waiver is effective and inclusive.

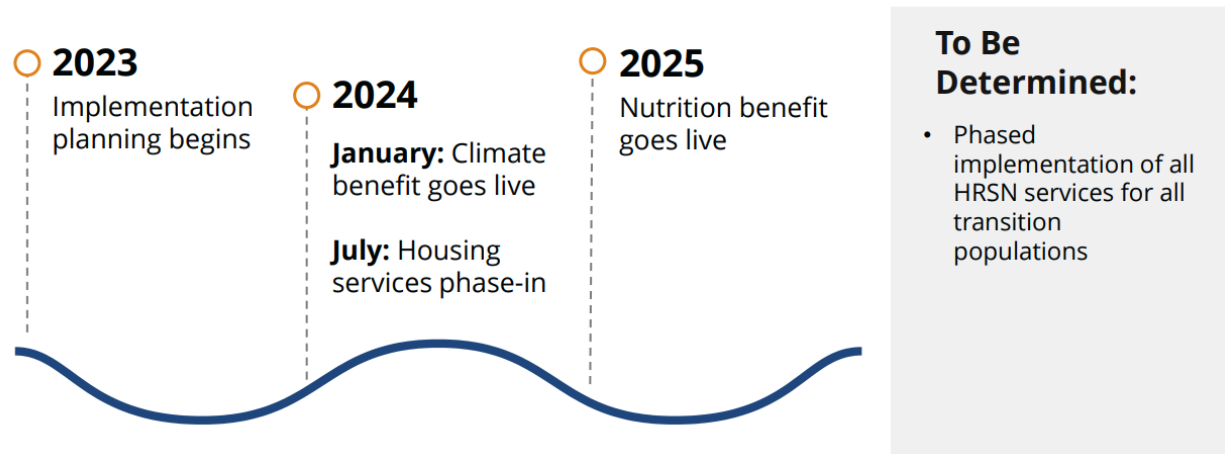
Below are key takeaways about the 1115 Waiver implementation process and opportunities for engaging with the rollout of the nutrition initiatives.

- The HRSN (Health Related Social Needs) benefits are new benefits that Oregon was able to receive through the Waiver. ([OHA 1115 Medicaid Waiver FAQ](#))
- OHP members who are facing certain life transitions will have support available to them as a covered benefit in OHP. They must also have a medical need for these resources.
- **Oregon's HRSN Services:**
 - Housing
 - Nutrition
 - Climate-Related needs
 - Outreach and Engagement
- **The Transition Populations who are eligible for the HRSN services/benefits:**
 - Youth with Special Care Needs up to age 26
 - Adults and youth released from custody
 - Adults released from behavioral health residential settings
 - Youth involved in the child welfare system, including youth transitioning out

- Individuals transitioning from Medicaid - only to dual eligibility status
- Individuals who are unhoused, or at risk of becoming unhoused
- Individuals with a high risk clinical need who reside in a region that is experiencing extreme weather events
- **Allowable Nutrition Supports through HRSN services:**
 - Nutrition counseling and education, including on healthy meal preparation
 - Medically-tailored meals, up to 3 meals a day delivered in the home or private residence, *for up to 6 months*
 - Meals or pantry stocking for children under 21, YSHCN, and pregnant individuals, up to 3 meals a day delivered in the home or private residence, *for up to 6 months*

Proposed Implementation Timeline

HRSN services will start in phases beginning 2024



- Fruit and vegetable prescriptions, *for up to 6 months*
- Case management, outreach, and education including linkages to other state and federal benefit programs, benefit program application assistance, and benefit program application fees

On August 9th, OHA held a work session focused on capacity building to support health-related social needs. ([PDF 1115 Waiver HRSN Benefit_20230809.pdf](#)) In this session OHA announced the timeline for benefits and available funding for CBO's and partners

- **HRSN (health related social needs) Funding**
 - This funding will be distributed by Coordinated Care Organizations (CCO's)
 - **\$119 million** in grants for infrastructure and capacity building to HRSN providers

- Federal guidelines for funding
 - Technology cost for new systems and tools
 - Development of operational processes and administrative cost
 - New staff hiring, training, and onboarding
 - Outreach and education to members through events or materials
 - **\$904 million** for HRSN services to eligible individuals
 - Housing
 - Nutrition
 - Climate
 - Outreach and Engagement
- The funding distribution and application timeliness are still to be determined

To be continued!

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