



# Senior and Disability Services

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Area Agency on Aging

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 21, 2017  
**TO:** OCWCOG SSAC and DSAC  
**FROM:** Randi Moore and Mary Kay Fitzmorris, SDS Program Managers  
**RE:** **Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) Program Report**

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### **Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Rule Changes and Transition Plan for Ineligible Medicaid Consumers**

Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program provides an array of home and community-based services, assisting Medicaid recipients with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) such as bathing, eating, and elimination. All Oregon consumers receiving assistance through the HCBS program have an initial assessment, and subsequent annual assessments, to determine eligibility for services.

The State of Oregon has approached the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees Medicare and Medicaid services, requesting revision in eligibility rules. This revision would modify and adjust assistance need levels for eligibility qualification. These changes would result in an estimated 4% of current recipients no longer being eligible for these services, or approximately 1,219 individuals statewide.

To mitigate the potential risks to individuals who may lose eligibility, the State is requesting that transition services be made available to assist affected consumers. In particular, these services would be available for those consumers in residential settings who may lose eligibility as a result of the adjustments, or individuals who are still eligible for services, but will now be receiving care in a lower level care setting. Transition services could include supports such as case management, as well as financial help for the purchase of furniture or other household items, or providing first and last month's rent for housing.

Two major hurdles must be faced before implementation of the ADL changes can move forward: CMS needs to approve the State's request to adapt eligibility rules; and APD will be required to get legislative approval to use funds for transition services.

## **Oregon Project Independence**

Oregon Project Independence provides a small amount of in-home care (currently less than 3 hours per week in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties) to support to seniors in the form tasks such as housekeeping, bathing, or shopping. The well-loved program, which is funded by Oregon General Funds, faces a 75% funding cut in the Governor's recommended Budget this year. Given that the Governor's Budget must be implemented by July 1st unless otherwise directed by the Legislature, the Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4AD) will be approaching the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to clarify that in order to provide adequate notice to OPI consumers of any program cuts happening by June 30th, notice would need to be sent in May. It is expected that direction will be given to hold the implementation of the Governor's proposed Budget, with current allocation levels continuing until a finalized budget is adopted by the legislature.

### **Day at the Capitol**

On May 17th O4AD will be organizing a day of advocacy and education at the Oregon Legislature. This is an opportunity for seniors and people with disabilities, advocates, and other stakeholders to share stories about the importance of services to seniors and people with disabilities, as well as relay the need to invest and not cut funding for programs that protect the independence, dignity, choice, and safety of all seniors and people with disabilities.

Link to registration: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1K8DwNixBmlyYd9\\_z7KVb0F\\_-qsJqofphHxD7GcOyYtg](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1K8DwNixBmlyYd9_z7KVb0F_-qsJqofphHxD7GcOyYtg)

### ***Meals on Wheels (MOW) Mail Direct Campaign***

Last fall, *MOW* contracted with Lautman, Maska, Neill and Company (Lautman) to complete the first direct-mail campaign the program has participated in for several years. Lautman is a mail direct co-op specifically designed to support *Meals on Wheels* programs. The first mailing happened in November, and focused on not only reaching current donors, but also building our acquisition base. The campaign was a success, with the program netting \$56,000. *MOW* has decided to participate in a mail campaign this spring as well, with the letter expected to arrive in mailboxes in late April. We will continue to judge the effectiveness of the campaign as it progresses.