OREGON OFFICE of RURAL HEALTH

43rd Annual Oregon
Rural Health Conference
October 7- 9, 2026

OPPORTUNITY Just knock.

OHSU

2026 Oregon Rural Health Conference Presentation Slides

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and OHP-certified assisters

October 8, 2026

ffice of Community Health and Engagement

Oregon HEALTH PLAN

Introductions

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Senior Regional Outreach Coordinator



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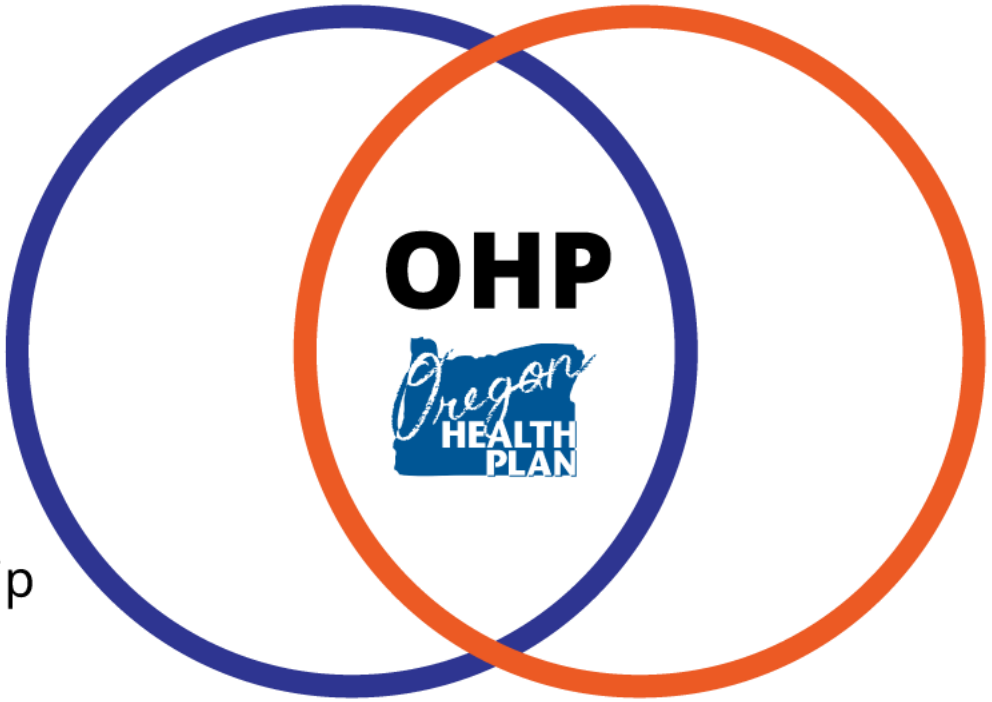
Special Projects Coordinator



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF
Human Services

OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

- Aging and People with Disabilities
- Child Welfare
- Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
- Self-Sufficiency Programs
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Oregon Eligibility Partnership



- Tribal Affairs
- Medicaid Division
- Behavioral Health Division
- Public Health Division
- External Relations Division
- Health Policy & Analytics
- Equity & Inclusion Division
- Oregon State Hospital

Agenda

- Goals for today
- Group introductions
- Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE)
- The Oregon Health Plan (OHP)
- OHP-Certified Assisters
- How to become an OHP-certified assister
- Group discussion
- Stay connected

Goals for today

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Have a basic understanding of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP).
- Know about the upcoming federal changes to Medicaid.
- Know how to get help with OHP.
- Understand how to stay informed and engaged.
- Understand how to become an OHP-certified assister.

Group introductions

Please introduce yourself to others at your table and share your:

- Name
- Organization
- Populations you serve
- What is your favorite place to visit in Oregon?



Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE)

Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE)

Together, we strive for a stronger, healthier Oregon. Through passion and collaboration, we elevate the beauty in diversity and unique community needs.

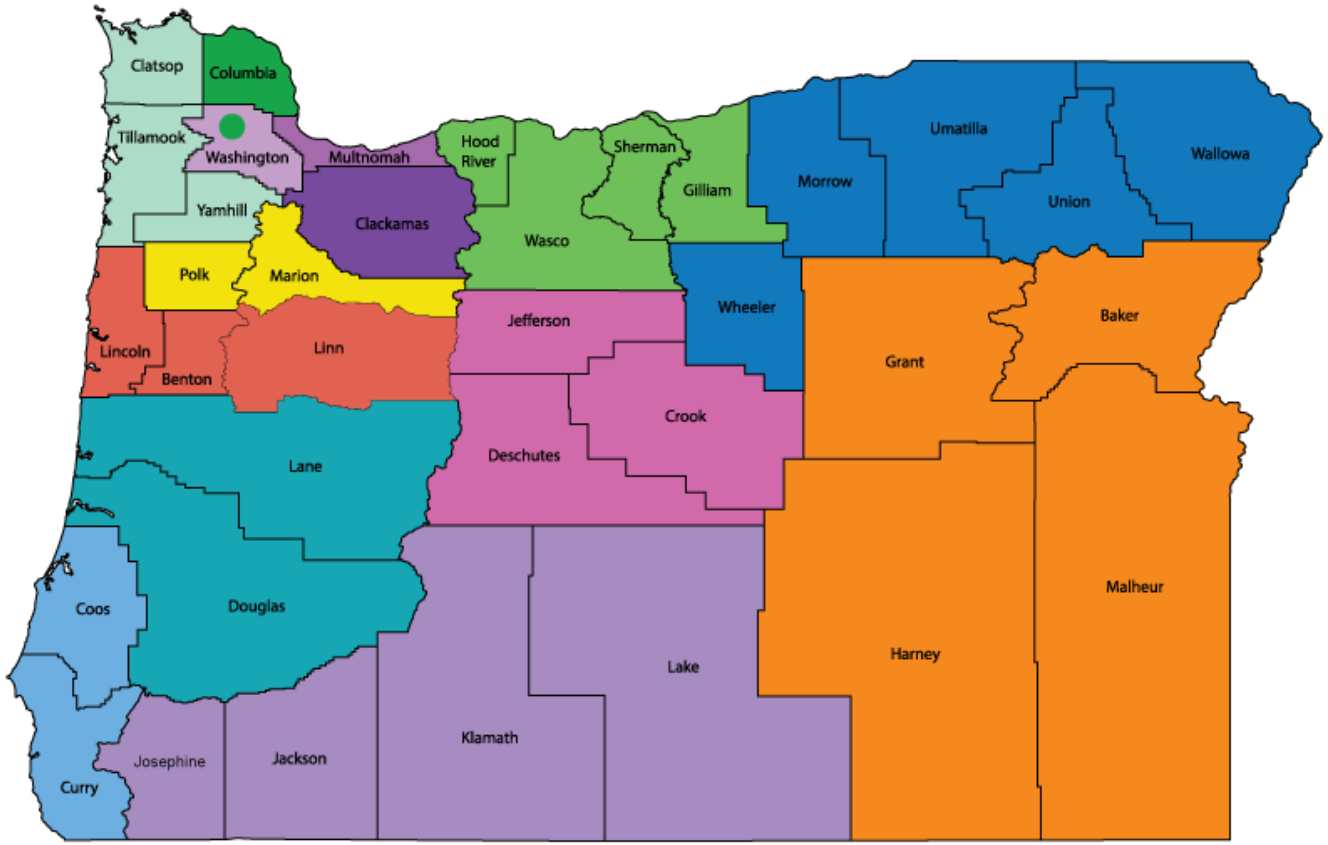
Our mission is to engage communities across Oregon to advance an equitable, responsive health system, envisioning a strong and healthy Oregon.

What is the Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE)?

- Works with the Oregon Health Plan (OHP), Oregon's Medicaid program.
- Leads various programs aimed at increasing access and support for the Oregon Health Plan through trusted partnerships.
- Includes:
  - OHP – Certified Assister Program
  - Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Program (HPE)
  - Health Advocates for Re-entry Treatment Program (HART)
  - Oregon Farmworker Health Program (OFHP)
  - Health Ambassador Program (HAP)

What is the Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE)?

- Has a regional and statewide team that helps our diverse network of partners.
  - Regional Outreach Coordinators (ROCs)
  - Advisors
  - Justice-Involved team
  - Special Project Coordinators
  - Business team
  - Leadership team
- Administers grants for close to 60 organizations.



What is the Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE)?

Supports a network of over 400 organizations across Oregon:

- Close to 1,700 individual OHP-certified assisters.
- Over 300 individual HPE assisters
- Assisters are also referred to as Community Partners or CPs.

The Oregon Health Plan

What is the Oregon Health Plan?

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) is free health coverage offered by the state of Oregon for people who meet income and other criteria. Anyone can apply.

What does OHP cover?

- Health check-ups
- Emergencies, hospital stays and urgent care
- Prescriptions
- Vaccines
- Mental health
- Rides to and from health appointments
- Prenatal care
- Dental care
- And more!

What is House Resolution 1 (HR1)

In July 2025, the federal government passed the House Resolution 1 (HR1) budget bill. HR1 is also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

HR1 **reduces funding** for Medicaid and **requires changes**.

What is changing?

Changes include:

- Non-citizen eligibility changes to OHP and the Marketplace
- Work or activity rules for some adults
- Retroactive coverage period changes
- More frequent renewals for most OHP members
- Member cost sharing via co-pays (not expected until late 2028)
- Changes to eligibility for Marketplace financial assistance
- Changes to SNAP eligibility
- Changes to provider and state taxes

Healthier Oregon Updates

About Healthier Oregon and Open Card

Healthier Oregon is a mostly state-funded program that allows Oregon to offer full Oregon Health Plan (OHP) coverage, regardless of immigration status.

OHP Open Card, also known as Fee-for-Service or FFS, is one of the ways members can be covered.

Some members have OHP Open Card, some members are covered by a coordinated care organization (CCO), and some members are covered through a mix of both.

Federal changes affecting Healthier Oregon

There are three key changes that will affect some non-citizens:

1. **Some non-citizens moved to Healthier Oregon**
2. **Healthier Oregon members will transition from CCOs to OHP Open Card**
3. **New work or activity rules will apply to some Healthier Oregon members**

CCO = Coordinated Care Organizations **OHP** = Oregon Health Plan

OHP-certified assisters

Community Partner Summit



OHP assisters

- Assisters are real-life superheroes.
- They learn all about OHP so the people in their communities have someone who can help them.
- Assisters often live and work in the communities they serve.
- They are known and trusted and often provide help with an understanding of people’s different cultures and languages.

OHP assisters cont’d

Assisters can help with things like:

- Oregon Health Plan (OHP)
- OHP navigation; understanding and using health benefits.
- Qualified Health Plan coverage through Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.

How to apply

There are many ways to apply:

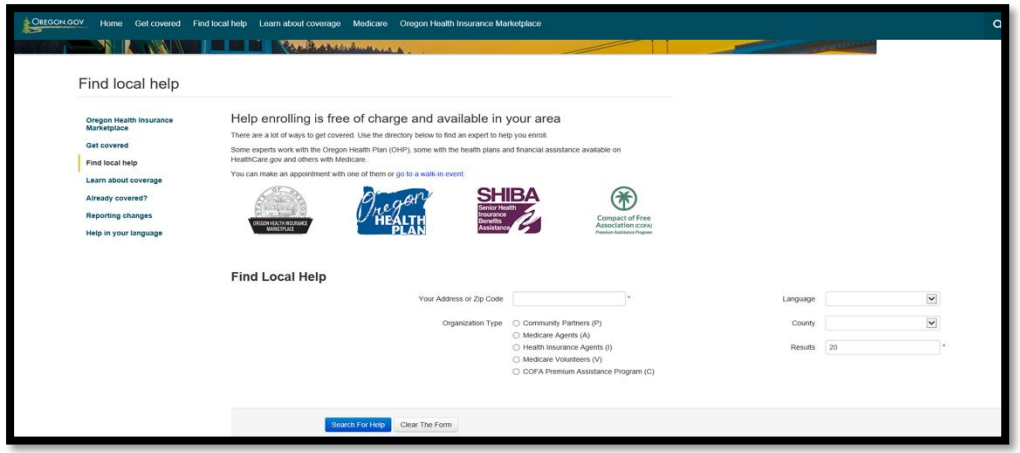
- Apply online at one.oregon.gov.
- Visit a local Oregon Department of Human Services office, Aging and People with Disabilities office or an Area Agency on Aging office. Find a local office here.
- Call the Customer Service Center and apply over the phone at 1-800-699-9075.
- Get free, personal help from a local OHP-certified assister, also known as community partners. To find one, visit www.OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp.

Finding a local, OHP-certified assister

Visit OregonHealthCare.gov/GetHelp.

Search/filter by:

- Address or zip code (required field)
- Language
- County
- **Organization type**: Select Community Partners (P)



How to become an OHP-certified assister

Why should you get certified?

As an OHP-certified assister, you'll get to help people enroll in OHP and understand how to use their OHP to achieve better health.

What are the benefits of getting certified?

As an OHP-Certified Assister you will:

- Get free, in-depth training about the different OHP programs.
- Have a Regional Outreach Coordinator (ROC) to support you and your work.
- Be part of a large network of other partners doing similar work.

HR1 and Healthier Oregon training

House Resolution 1 (HR1)

- Four-part training series for OHP-certified assisters
- April through November 2026
- English and Spanish
- Formats: Live and on-demand
- Two-part training for HPE assisters
  - September through December 2026
  - English

Healthier Oregon transition to OHP Open Card

- Two-part training series for OHP-certified assisters
- September through November 2026
- English and Spanish
- Formats: Live and on-demand

Other resources

- Helpful guides
- On-demand learning platform
- Direct phone and email support from a dedicated team of eligibility workers
- Monthly regional Collaborative meetings
- Support from a Regional Outreach Coordinator (ROC)

How to get certified

There are three main steps to getting certified:

- Have your organization sign a contract with OCHE.
- Complete an account creation form and valid background check.
- Take our Certified Assister Training (CAT) and essential modules.

Interested in becoming an OHP Assister?

If you'd like to help members of your community with OHP:

- Please email the Office of Community Health and Engagement (OCHE) at Community.Outreach@oha.oregon.gov and we will walk you through the onboarding process.

Group discussion

Please share with your group:

- A time you needed help with a complex topic, and someone helped you.
- What difference did it make in you getting the help you needed?




QUESTIONS?

Key materials available now

- OHP Changes webpage: OHP.Oregon.gov/HR1 and OHP Toolkit hub page: OHP.Oregon.gov/Toolkit
- SNAP Work Rules webpage: Oregon.gov/SNAPworkrules
- Work or Activity Rules & More Frequent Renewals two-pagers (English & Spanish)
- New Federal Rules and Upcoming Changes to OHP fact sheet (English & Spanish)
- Healthier Oregon fact sheet (English & Spanish)
- HR1 talking points for partners (English & Spanish)
- Ongoing touchpoints: Forward Together Oregon webinar (bi-monthly), Oregon Health Update Office Hours, and participation in local, regional, and statewide meetings with partners

External Audiences

- OHA and ODHS began conducting earned and paid media campaigns in September.
- The **Stay Connected, Stay Covered** campaign will run across the state and in multiple languages.
- Messaging will use multiple channels to meet people where they're at, including:
  - Radio & TV Public Service Announcements
  - Digital ads
  - Community events
  - Print ads
  - Influencer marketing
  - Social media campaigns

English



Spanish



Partner Webinar Series

Oregon Health Update & Office Hour

Community partners, providers, and more are invited to register to learn more about:

- Upcoming changes to benefits and programs
- Federal changes to Oregon Health Plan
- ONE Eligibility System changes

Language and disability access:
If you need help or need to request accommodation, please contact:

- Email: Cristina.C.Hernandez@oha.Oregon.gov
- Phone: 503-302-6581

Moving to a monthly schedule

Date:

- English: **Second Wednesday** of the month from 9:00 – 10:30 am PST
  - October 14
- Spanish: **Third Thursday** of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 am PST
  - October 15

To register: scan the QR codes or click the links below

- English
- Spanish

English

Spanish

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY

Oregon Health Plan

Oregon Department of Human Services

Stay connected

- OCHE web page
- OCHE email: Community.Outreach@oha.oregon.gov
- OHP web page: OHP.Oregon.gov

Thank you!

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Office of Community Health and Engagement at community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov.

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