



2024 Legislative Summary



FROM THE DIRECTOR



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ODHS Director

The Oregon Legislature's 2024 regular session came to a close on March 7, and I'm pleased to report that it resulted in important gains for Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the people we serve. Among these gains are investments that will increase families' access to food and financial resources, support youth in foster care who have complex needs, and enhance customer service across multiple parts of our agency.

For example, one key investment will allow us to roll out the new [Summer EBT](#) program in 2024, providing food benefits to families during the summer months when children lose access to school meals. Another will increase the maximum cash benefit available to survivors

of domestic violence through the [Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors](#) (TA-DVS) program, providing more of the critical resources families need to move into safe housing. Other session highlights include investments that will allow us to:

- Provide housing supports to older adults and people with disabilities who receive long-term services and supports.
- Continue critical efforts in Child Welfare to prevent youth in foster care from experiencing temporary lodging.
- Plan and implement technology that will better serve providers working with people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
- Fill longstanding staffing gaps in Central Services, shoring up our business infrastructure and ensuring it can adequately support ODHS staff as they serve Oregonians in communities around the state.
- Fill additional gaps in the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) so it can continue ensuring older adults, people with disabilities, Oregon Tribal Nations and other disproportionately impacted communities can stay safe during and after emergencies.

Of course, these gains could not have been realized without the hard work of our staff and partners and the support of the legislature and the Governor's Office. Across our programs, staff worked tirelessly over the short session to ensure lawmakers had the information they needed to move vital human services legislation to the Governor's desk for signing into law. I also am especially grateful to our staff working in local offices all around the state, translating investments like these into positive outcomes for Oregon communities and Oregon Tribes. It's through their day-to-day commitment to building well-being, guided by our Equity North Star, that our collective work moves forward.

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BUDGET SUMMARY



Legislation passed in the 2024 session increased ODHS' 2023-25 legislatively adopted budget by **\$1.1 billion** and added a total of 248 staff positions across the agency.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Aging and People with Disabilities	\$63,060,448	\$(2,559,058)	\$74,890,436	\$135,391,826
Central and Shared Services	\$43,161,292	\$18,168,334	\$18,961,839	\$80,291,465
Child Welfare	\$52,836,392	\$9,270,255	\$44,957,525	\$107,064,172
Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities	\$133,495,737	\$5,703,409	\$291,078,010	\$430,277,156
Oregon Eligibility Partnership	\$12,422,605	\$2,341,606	\$11,209,802	\$25,974,013
Self-Sufficiency Programs	\$29,321,210	\$113,822,036	\$195,603,454	\$338,746,700
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$1,406,486	\$86,016	\$3,962,192	\$5,454,694
State assessments and enterprise-wide costs	\$15,894,750	\$1,667,343	\$8,917,553	\$26,479,646

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



The major 2024 adjustments to Oregon Department of Human Services' biennial budget are outlined in [Senate Bill \(SB\) 5701](#). The investments there, as well as in several policy bills discussed below, add \$1.1 billion and 248 positions to the \$18.5 billion biennial budget the legislature approved for ODHS in June 2023.

SB 5701 highlights include:

- 55 new positions and a \$12 million General Fund investment to implement the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) program. S-EBT will provide eligible families a \$120 grocery benefit per child during the summertime, when many children lose access to the free or reduced-price meals available at school. An estimated 294,000 students in Oregon may be eligible to participate this summer.
- A \$10.6 million total investment that will allow ODHS to increase the Temporary Assistance for Domestic Survivors (TA-DVS) maximum 90-day benefit from \$1,200 to \$3,200, providing survivors of domestic violence with more of the resources they need to move themselves and their children into safe housing.
- \$205.5 million total funds to support non-state employee collective bargaining, which covers the workforce of more than 39,000 adult foster home providers, personal support workers and home care workers providing direct support to older adults and people with disabilities throughout the state.
- The creation of a \$10 million special purpose appropriation to support Child Welfare's continued efforts to prevent youth in foster care from experiencing temporary lodging.
- A \$14.1 million General Fund investment for 50 full-time, permanent positions in Central Services, which will help address historical staffing gaps and stabilize central functions that support all ODHS programs.

In the following pages, additional key investments are outlined by appropriation area.

Aging and People with Disabilities

AAA case management

In SB 5701, the Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee approved \$8.8 million General Fund (\$17.6 million total funds) for contracted case management services provided through Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). These services will better support older adults and people with disabilities who are eligible for long-term services and supports but are not receiving paid attendant care.

Housing navigators

The Subcommittee also approved 11 limited-duration positions and funding for APD to provide housing navigation supports for people who receive long-term services and supports.

Acuity-based staffing positions

To address increased workload arising from licensing complaints and acuity-based staffing reviews, SB 5701 increases the ODHS budget by \$783,944 General Fund (\$1.6 million total funds) and adds nine full-time permanent positions to APD's Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit.

Central and Shared Services

Central Services staffing

The Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee allocated \$14.1 million General Fund (\$23.4 million total funds) in response to historical budget shortfalls in ODHS Central Services. Additionally, the Subcommittee authorized 50 full-time, permanent positions spanning Human Resources, the Office of Reporting, Research, Analytics and Implementation (ORRAI) and other core offices. These positions are not new to the agency, but their new legislative authority means ODHS will no longer have to fund them through its own limited savings.

Office of Resilience and Emergency Management

A \$7.8 million General Fund (\$13 million total funds) investment, along with legislative approval of 29 already-staffed positions, will lend significant stability to the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management (OREM) and strengthen its ability to provide mass care, climate resilience supports and other essential elements of the state's emergency response enterprise.

Background Check Unit

The Subcommittee approved an increase of \$707,064 General Fund (\$3 million total funds) and 11 full-time permanent positions (8.05 FTE) in ODHS' Background Check Unit (BCU). The investments will help address delayed processing times that have resulted from growth in the number of background check requests submitted by employers, including the many providers in Oregon that serve older adults and people with disabilities. With the new resources, the BCU expects to reduce average processing times from 44 to 10 days.

Child Welfare

Temporary lodging prevention

The Subcommittee authorized the establishment of a \$10 million special purpose appropriation (SPA) for temporary lodging prevention services, which include child-specific plans, in-home supports and other efforts to help youth with complex behavioral needs remain in or return to appropriate foster placements. The SPA, along with up to \$15 million in Title IV-E Adoption Assistance program savings, will help ODHS comply with the terms of a 2018 settlement agreement aimed at preventing the need for temporary lodging.

Treatment foster care

SB 5701 includes a \$1.8 million General Fund investment to support up to 12 additional youth placements with Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO), an organization serving children and youth with complex emotional and behavioral needs.

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Systems projects

The legislature approved \$580,000 General Fund (\$21.9 million total funds) and 33 positions for administrative staffing support and implementation of the Centralized Case Management System and Provider Enrollment and Maintenance Systems. The investment provides legislative authority and funding for 19 positions that ODHS previously established to support this work, but which had been funded through savings in other areas of the ODHS budget.

Oregon Eligibility Partnership

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer positions

As part of a larger investment (see Self-Sufficiency Programs, below) in the new Summer

Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT) program, SB 5701 approved 34 limited duration positions and 13 permanent positions for the Oregon Eligibility Partnership (OEP) to support S-EBT applications processing.

ONE system changes

The Subcommittee approved a one-time Other Funds limitation increase of \$250,000 to support ONE Eligibility system changes necessary for establishing a waitlist for the Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) program.

Self-Sufficiency Programs

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program

The Subcommittee approved a \$12 million General Fund investment to launch the new federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (S-EBT) program in Oregon in summer 2024. The program, designed to reduce child hunger during the summer when many children lose access to school meals, can provide eligible families with a \$120 total per-child grocery benefit over the summer months. In addition to the OEP positions discussed above and two Central Services positions for accounting and contracts, the \$12 million investment includes the following for Self-Sufficiency Programs (SSP):

- \$5.8 million General Fund (\$11.7 million total funds) for IT system development
- Six permanent full-time positions in Self-Sufficiency Programs for design and delivery
- \$2 million General Fund (\$4 million total funds) for EBT vendor costs
- \$1 million General Fund (\$2.2 million total funds) for notice mailings
- \$70.6 million Federal Funds limitation to cover the costs of benefits in both 2024 and 2025

Temporary Assistance to Domestic Violence Survivors

To better support survivors of domestic violence in securing safe, stable housing, SB 5701 invests \$96,000 General Fund (\$10.6 million total funds) to increase the Temporary Assistance to Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) maximum 90-day benefit from \$1,200 to \$3,200.

Newcomer support services pilot

The Subcommittee approved a \$2 million appropriation for SSP to pilot a grant program that would allow migrant-serving community organizations to provide short-term shelter and food to eligible individuals and families as well as case management and housing supports.

Newcomers are eligible for these services provided they are not receiving services under an eligible immigration status designated by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement and have been in Oregon for less than 18 months.

Employment Related Day Care

A \$99 million Other Funds limitation increase will allow SSP to make payments to Employment Related Day Care providers on behalf of the Department of Early Learning and Care.



POLICY BILLS WITH BUDGET IMPACTS

HB 4086: Child abuse investigations (\$231,000)¹

HB 4086 requires ODHS to commission a study on ODHS child abuse investigations in Oregon and the current response to children exhibiting problematic sexual behaviors. It requires ODHS to appoint two separate advisory committees and study these topics with the help of a contracted facilitator.

House Bill (HB) 4129: Agency with Choice (\$414,000)

HB 4129 establishes the agency with choice provider type for older adults and people with physical disabilities. An agency with choice provider will serve as the employer of direct support workers (DSW) and will be reimbursed by the state while the DSW will be managed by the individual to whom they provide services. The availability of this new provider type will increase choice for a person receiving services and offer workers a new option that allows a consumer to direct their own care.

Senate Bill (SB) 1521: Enhanced supports for personal support workers (\$78,000)

Establishes agency with choice services for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. As in House Bill 4129, which establishes these services for older adults and people with physical disabilities, this bill creates a new category of provider that will serve as the employer of direct support workers (DSW) and be reimbursed by the state, while the DSW will be managed by the individual to whom they provide services.

The bill also provides technical fixes to statutory language regarding acuity-based staffing tools, with the aim of increasing safety for facility residents and staff.

Finally, the bill prolongs the implementation of residential sprinkler requirements for adult foster homes and for group homes serving five or fewer individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

SB 1530: Warming and cooling shelters (\$2 million)

A General Fund investment of \$2 million will allow the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management to continue to provide support for emergency warming and cooling shelters throughout the state.

SB 1557: “Culture of Yes” (\$188,000)

SB 1557 directs ODHS and OHA to coordinate to make rules and plan future policy recommendations that will ensure Oregon realizes the commitment it has made to the federal government that every person under 21 who needs a hospital, nursing home or inpatient psychiatric facility level of care should have access to K Plan-entitled services and supports. The budget impact accounts for two positions to aid with this cross-agency collaboration.

¹All dollar amounts are General Fund.

SB 1585: SNAP task force (\$481,000)

SB 1585 establishes a task force to create a program that would expand food choices for people participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), allowing them to use their benefits to purchase hot and prepared meals. The change would improve food access for people without the ability to prepare food, including many older adults, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness.



BUDGET NOTES

The Joint Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee adopted the following budget notes in connection to SB 5701:

Temporary lodging prevention | Reports due in September and December 2024

The Department of Human Services is directed to report to the Emergency Board and interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services in September and December 2024, on the status of temporary lodging and temporary lodging prevention services. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a description of the temporary lodging and temporary lodging prevention services used during the 2023-25 biennium; (2) the actual and projected numbers of children and young adults who have received or will receive temporary lodging and temporary lodging prevention services during the 2023-25 biennium; (3) actual and projected expenditures for the 2023-25 biennium; (4) a list of contract providers used to deliver services during the 2023-25 biennium, and, for each contract provider, their licensure status, not to exceed contract amount(s), and number of children and young adults served; (5) information on the 2023-25 cost per child or young adult, including explanation for any variance in costs per child paid to providers; and (6) reports required under the settlement agreement that describe the system's effort to end temporary lodging.

Summer EBT | Reports due in May and September 2024

The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Education, is directed to report to the Emergency Board in May and September 2024 on the status of Summer EBT implementation. The May report shall include, but not be limited to, the following information: (1) a description of the program's eligibility rules and application process; (2) a discussion of the ways in which the agency communicated with potentially eligible children and families about the availability of the new nutrition benefit; and (3) the program's information system stage gate endorsement(s), requirements, implementation costs, and implementation timeline. The September report shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) a discussion of the number of children and families who received the benefit in summer 2024; (2) the number of children and families enrolled via automated determinations (or categorically eligible) versus requiring a more involved application and enrollment process; (3) the plan to transition from a vendor system to an ongoing state-based information technology system; and (4) any other lessons learned that may help to improve the program for summer 2025.

TRACKED BILLS AT A GLANCE*

BILL	TOPIC	EFFECTIVE
HB 4001	Case management and wraparound services for newcomers	Upon passage
HB 4002	Prohibits prior authorizations for coverage of certain medications	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4010	Specifies that flavoring of a prescription drug is not compounding	June 6, 2024
HB 4012	Providers administering prescription drugs may use out-of-network pharmacies	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4031	Requires the Public Records Advisory Council to study public records	Upon passage
HB 4033	Extends long-term care assessment to June 30, 2032	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4034	Updates connection date to the Internal Revenue Code	June 6, 2024
HB 4035	Increases proportion of employer tax revenues paid into Supplemental Employment Department Administration Fund	June 6, 2024

ACRONYMS KEY

HB - House Bill

SB - Senate Bill

BOLI - Bureau of Labor and Industries

ODHS - Oregon Department of Human Services

ODE - Oregon Department of Education

OED - Oregon Employment Department

OHA - Oregon Health Authority

OHCS - Oregon Housing and Community Services

SNAP - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

*This list is limited to **passed bills** tracked by ODHS during the 2024 session.

BILL	TOPIC	EFFECTIVE
HB 4045	New personnel categories qualify for police officer PERS benefits	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4063	Housing needs of Metro urban unincorporated lands	June 6, 2024
HB 4081	OHA Emergency Medical Services Program and advisory board	June 6, 2024
HB 4082	ODE to create Summer Learning Grant program	Upon passage
HB 4084	ODE to create program for students who are in foster care	Upon passage
HB 4086	Study of the scope of child abuse investigations	Upon passage
HB 4103	Modifies electric assisted bicycle definitions	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4104	Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day	Upon passage
HB 4113	Payments for certain medications apply toward out-of-pocket maximums	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4115	Modifies definition of “supervisory employee”	Upon passage
HB 4117	Government Ethics Commission can issue advisory opinions related to application of public meetings law	Upon passage
HB 4129	Agency with choice services for older adults and people with disabilities	Jan 1, 2025
HB 4136	Expands exemption from licensure requirement for certain nurses	Upon passage
HB 4137	International Baccalaureate satisfies certain high school diploma requirements	June 6, 2024
HB 4140	Funding of programs that assist crime victims	Upon passage
HB 4146	Petitions for certain types of abuse-related orders can be filed in the county where the abuse occurred	Upon passage

BILL	TOPIC	EFFECTIVE
<u>HB 4151</u>	Directs System of Care Advisory Council to establish youth behavioral health workforce subcommittee	Upon passage
<u>HB 4153</u>	Establishes Task Force on Artificial Intelligence	Upon passage
<u>HB 4160</u>	Modifies length of time person can be considered a student in determinations of prohibited sexual conduct	July 1, 2024
<u>SB 1502</u>	Livestreaming of public education governing body meetings	Jan 1, 2025
<u>SB 1503</u>	Establishes Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention	June 6, 2024
<u>SB 1506</u>	Pharmacist testing, prescription and administration of treatment for SARS-CoV-2.	June 6, 2024
<u>SB 1508</u>	Prohibits Health Evidence Review Commission from relying on quality of life measures	Jan 1, 2025
<u>SB 1510</u>	State Fire Marshal can require fingerprinting of existing or prospective employees or contractors for purposes of criminal background check	Upon passage
<u>SB 1514</u>	OED to conduct solvency assessments for Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund	Upon passage
<u>SB 1515</u>	OED and BOLI to identify certain needed statutory changes	Upon passage
<u>SB 1520</u>	Creates Oregon tax subtraction for amounts received in resolution of a civil action arising from wildfire	June 6, 2024
<u>SB 1521</u>	Enhanced supports for personal support workers	Upon passage
<u>SB 1523</u>	Allows persons 21+ years of age to apply to change name of biological parent on birth certificate	Upon passage
<u>SB 1529</u>	Requires OHCS to study and report on housing; amends OHS residential air conditioner and air filter delivery program	Upon passage

BILL	TOPIC	EFFECTIVE
<u>SB 1530</u>	Appropriate funds and modifies expenditure limitations for certain programs within ODHS and other agencies	Upon passage
<u>SB 1537</u>	Establishes Housing Accountability and Production Office	June 6, 2024
<u>SB 1545</u>	Special assessments of real market value for certain properties replaced after 2020 wildfires	June 6, 2024
<u>SB 1553</u>	Modifies crime of interfering with public transportation to include use of certain substances	Jan 1, 2025
<u>SB 1557</u>	Home and community-based services for eligible children and youth	Upon passage
<u>SB 1558</u>	Exceptions to abbreviated school day requirements	Upon passage
<u>SB 1576</u>	Requires Judicial Department to study civil law matters	Upon passage
<u>SB 1580</u>	Creates crime of fraudulent misrepresentation related to certain employee-related data	Upon passage
<u>SB 1585</u>	SNAP task force (see Self-Sufficiency Programs section above)	June 6, 2024
<u>SB 1587</u>	Grants certain immunities to children’s advocacy centers and their employees and agents	Upon passage
<u>SB 1595</u>	Increases certain exemptions from garnishment and execution	Upon passage
<u>SB 5701</u>	Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to specified state agencies for biennial expenses	Upon passage

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