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Jan. 16, 2025

To: I/DD community members, Tribal partners and ODDS staff

From: Dana Hittle, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Subject: Moratorium on new Standard Model Agencies and 24-hour residential providers

Hello,

This message is for the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community. This news is most important for:

- Prospective provider agencies
- Provider agencies waiting for their applications to be reviewed
- Current provider agencies
- Case management entities

On Jan. 10, ODDS asked the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a six-month moratorium on new Standard Model Agencies and 24-hour residential providers in Oregon. This only applies to providers that ODDS licenses.

What would this moratorium mean?

If approved by CMS, the moratorium will start Feb. 10, 2025. ODDS would then stop taking applications for:

- New Community Living Supports Standard Model Agencies (SMA)
- New 24-hour residential provider agencies.

We are developing an exceptions process. See more on that below.

How long will the moratorium last?

We expect it to last for one year. At first, CMS will approve six months.

After that, we plan to ask for six more months.

Why is ODDS doing this?

During the last three years, we had a 240% increase in applications from provider agencies. With the size of our current staff, we aren't able to process all of the new applications. We have a backlog of 284 for SMA and 114 for 24-hour residential. Staff are working hard. The moratorium will give them time to catch up.

Working on the backlog also takes time away from regulating providers.

The moratorium will give staff more time to regulate new and current providers. This will decrease the risk of fraud, waste and abuse.

Will the moratorium affect individuals who get services?

No. The moratorium won't make it harder for anyone to get services. We have too many SMA and 24-hour providers in many parts of the state.

These providers have nearly 1,000 openings. This is far more than current demand.

What if parts of the state need more providers?

If needed, ODDS may make exceptions to the moratorium. We will do monthly reviews of counties and weekly reviews of some situations to be sure there are enough providers. We will make exceptions for new SMA and 24-hour residential providers in communities that need them. Some examples are:

- Communities that need more providers who use languages other than English.
- Rural communities that need more providers.

How do I apply for an exception to the moratorium?

The ODDS Licensing Unit is developing an exceptions request process. We will post this process on [the ODDS Prospective Provider Agencies web page](#). If you are a prospective provider with questions, please email dd.licensing@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

What happens next?

If CMS approves, ODDS will stop accepting new applications for SMA and 24-hour providers on Feb. 10, 2025. We will process applications we received before that date in the order received.

ODDS leadership and I will keep our partners updated at meetings. If there are changes to this plan, I'll send another community message. If you have questions, please email dd.licensing@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Hittle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being more prominent than the last name "Hittle".

Dana Hittle

Interim Director

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