

Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid: Talking Points

Existing waitlist talking points:

You are currently on the waitlist for Oregon Project Independence. You may now qualify for a new program called Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid or OPI-M. OPI-M is an enhanced version of Oregon Project Independence with more benefits and services.

OPI-M is open for new applicants which means you would no longer be on a waitlist. OPI-M provides services and supports in your own home.

Some of the services you may be eligible for include in-home care, home modifications, home delivered meals, assistive devices or technology to help you in your home, transportation and supports for your unpaid caregiver. There are no fees for the services you may receive.

There is a financial eligibility review and an in-person assessment to determine your care needs. A worker will meet and help you with your application. Are you interested in finding out more about OPI-M and seeing if you are eligible for OPI-M at this time?

(Follow local referral process)

Existing OPI talking points:

You may qualify for a new program called Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid or OPI-M.

If you are eligible, OPI-M can provide all of the services you are currently getting under OPI and more. Some of the services you may be eligible for that are not part of OPI include additional in-home services hours- up to 40 hours every two weeks of in-home care, home modifications, transportation and supports for your unpaid caregiver. There are no fees for any of the services you may receive and there is no claim on your estate for these services.

There is a financial eligibility review and an in-person assessment to determine your care needs. A worker will meet and help you with your application. Are you interested in finding out more about OPI-M and seeing if you are eligible for OPI-M at this time?

(Follow local referral process)

Existing OPI pilot talking points:

You may qualify for a new program called Oregon Project Independence – Medicaid or OPI-M.

If you are eligible, OPI-M can provide all of the services you are currently getting under the OPI pilot program and more. Some of the services you may be eligible for that are not part of OPI pilot include additional in-home services hours- up to 40 hours every two weeks of in-home care, home modifications, transportation and supports for your unpaid caregiver. There are no fees for any of the services you may receive and there is no claim on your estate for these services.

There is a financial eligibility review and an in-person assessment to determine your care needs. Part of the eligibility review may include additional review of disability status which may take extra time. A worker will meet and help you with your application. Are you interested in finding out more about OPI-M and seeing if you are eligible for OPI-M at this time?

(Follow local referral process)

Further talking points if the person is unsure about applying for OPI-M:

- Emphasize that if they are already receiving services, they can continue with all the same services and more.
- Share and review the program comparison chart with the individual.
- Share about how OPI-M uses federal money to stretch state resources and serve more people.
- Encourage the individual to call back if they change their mind in the future.

OPI-M FAQs:

What is OPI-M? OPI-M is a new program through Aging and People with Disabilities. It provides services to people in their own homes to prevent or delay services through Medicaid long-term services and supports.

Why is there a new program? Limited funding for OPI has led to waitlists and limits on services. This new program allows us to use Medicaid funding to expand services to more people and offer more benefits.

I don't qualify for Medicaid, won't I be denied? There are many different Medicaid programs including medical insurance and long-term care services. This new program has a much higher income, resource and need limit than traditional Medicaid. You may be eligible even if you were denied for a different Medicaid previously.

I don't want an estate claim, will my family have to pay for this? OPI-M does not have an estate claim and your heirs will not need to pay anything back from your estate. Any prior claims from before OPI-M will still apply.

Why can't I go on regular OPI? There is limited funding for OPI which is why a waitlist is in effect.

Can I just stay on the waitlist for OPI? Yes, you can stay on the waitlist and be contacted when you are next on the list. Please keep in mind that you could be on this list for many months or years, depending on funding.

Can I stay on OPI while I go through the OPI-M eligibility process? Yes, you can continue to receive your existing OPI services until eligibility is determined for OPI-M.

How much money can I have on this program? The income limits are up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level and are updated every January. For 2024, this amount is \$5,020 for an individual.

How much can I keep in resources? The current resource limit is \$87,214 and is updated each July. However, there are many parts to determining what resources are counted. I would encourage you to apply even if your resources are above this amount.

I am married, how does this affect my spouse? If your spouse has needs, they may also apply to see if they are eligible for OPI-M services. A

worker will help you determine if your spouse's income or resources impact your application and your spouse's if they apply.

What if I need more help than OPI-M can provide? OPI-M is a limited in-home program which offers limited services to maintain independence. Your case manager will talk with you about options to meet your needs within OPI-M or other programs such as Medicaid long-term services and supports.