Oregon Project Independence: Serving Oregon’s Neediest Seniors

Oregon Project Independence has successfully kept at-risk seniors in their own homes and away from expensive Medicaid services. The financial pay-off is immediate. It costs Oregon $332 per month in state funds to serve a client through OPI, $803 per month in state funds to serve a Medicaid in-home service client; $846 in state funds per month to serve a Medicaid client in a community-based care facility; and $3,168 per month in state funds to serve a Medicaid client in a nursing facility.

- Seniors with more than $3,923 in monthly income pay 100% of the cost of their OPI service. In FY 2014, OPI collected $116,723 in program co-pay fees. Only seniors with incomes of less than $1,471 per month are exempt from co-pays. People pay progressively higher co-pays as their income increases, until at $3,923 per month people pay the full amount.
- Over 96% of all OPI clients are at income levels that would qualify them for Medicaid services, which is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. The federal poverty level is now $980 per month.
- Medicaid long-term care clients also receive the Oregon Health Plan benefits, at an additional cost to the state. OPI clients do not receive these benefits.

The cost to the state of OPI services is 10% the cost of residence in a nursing facility.

For more information, please contact Nicole Palmateer: nicole@o4ad.org

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*October 2014.

**Other Data Sources:** for In-home, CBC, and NF services, DHS, February 2014, “2015 Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee, Aging and People with Disabilities” (PowerPoint). Federal poverty is for 2015. OPI fee collection number from DHS “OPI Allocation-Expenditures Analysis April 2015.”

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