



Oregon Association
of Area Agencies on
Aging & Disabilities

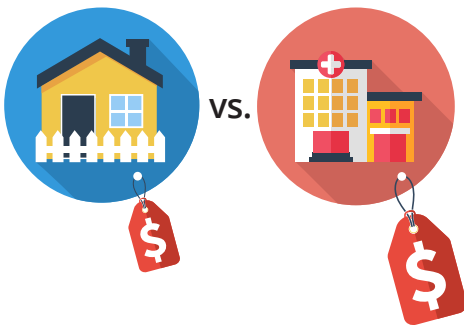
Preserve. Protect. Prioritize.

Oregon’s system of long term services and supports is based on foundation principles in Oregon statute. ORS 410 calls for **independence, dignity and choice** as the state defines systems of care. During the 2017 Legislative Session, policy makers will be faced with difficult decisions to balance the budgets for the 2017-19 biennium. It is imperative that our elected officials preserve, protect and prioritize services for older adults and people with disabilities:



Preserve

Oregon’s system of long term services and supports seeks to help individuals retain their independence and dignity through a focus on in-home and community based care versus a reliance on premature or unnecessary facility or institutional care. Preserving this approach not only respects the needs of the individual but has shown to realize a net savings for state and Federal budgets versus facility based care.



Protect

Oregon’s older adults and people with disabilities deserve to receive services and support without fear. Fear of losing their care, fear of reductions in services due to budget issues, and fear of losing their independence. Oregon’s Legislative body must protect Oregon’s system of long term services and supports which is a model for the rest of the nation. The Oregon system focuses on the individual and their needs to strengthen their quality of life. Protecting current service levels and necessary investments in the network protects our vulnerable citizens and has **netted millions upon millions in cost savings for our state** – and continues to do so.



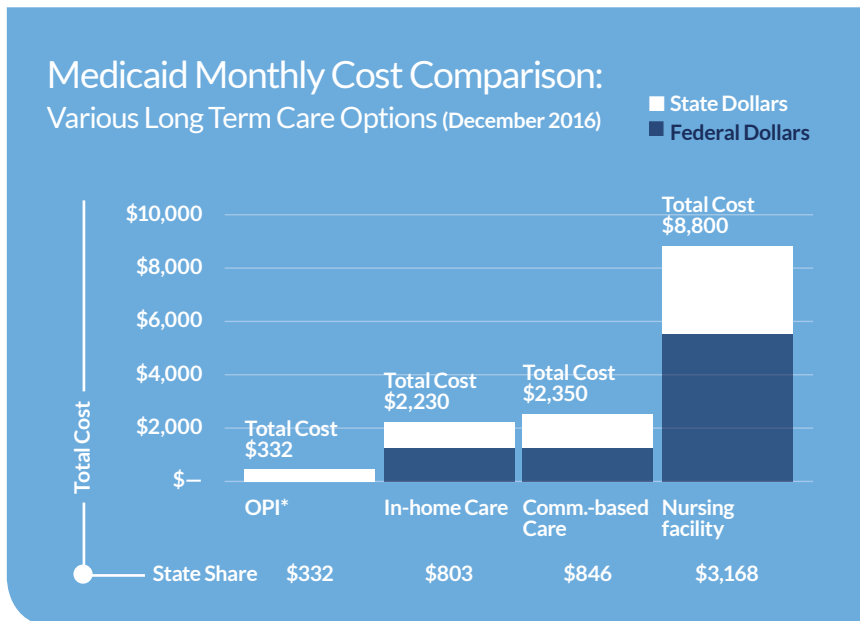


Prioritize

As budget conversations and negotiations occur, the network to support Oregon's older adults and people with disabilities must be a priority for the Legislative body and Legislative leadership. Considering the needs of vulnerable Oregonians must be a first thought in developing not only budgets but policy for our state.

- Maintaining current service levels for Oregon's older adults and people with disabilities utilizing long term services and supports. This must include proven programs that demonstrate effectiveness in meeting consumer needs and returning cost efficiencies.

- Making key investments to strengthen Oregon's commitment to home and community based services as a first choice when appropriate in the Medicaid system of long term services and supports.



Maintaining hours of care for Medicaid consumers allows more seniors and people with disabilities to remain in their own home and community while avoiding more costly facility based care. Reductions in service hours may lead to a quicker decline into higher and more costly levels of care due to a decrease in overall care stability.

Protecting current funding for Oregon Project Independence for older adults must be a key priority for Oregon's budget writers. Reducing or eliminating funding will immediately result in higher costs to the State General Fund due to consumers moving to Medicaid. Over 96% of current OPI consumers would be eligible for Medicaid but choose to remain in OPI at a significantly lower cost to the State.

\$21 million

Protecting current funding for the Oregon Project Independence Pilot Project serving People with Disabilities. This project has opened up OPI for the first time to people with disabilities and allowed access to a cost efficient but effective program to maintain independence and remain in their own home and community while avoiding entrance to Medicaid.

\$6 million

- Supporting the infrastructure of Oregon's Aging and Disability network. Insuring the network has adequate staffing and resources to meet Federal requirements for Medicaid programs, provide critical adult protective services, and effectively implement Oregon's proven programs that help seniors and people with disabilities retain their independence and avoid unnecessary and/or premature entrance to entitlement programs and facility based care. **Maintain workload staffing levels as recommended in the Governor's Recommended Budget at 90.4% of the workload standard.**

- Improving protective services and abuse prevention for Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities through adequate staffing and investment in community based prevention programs and training.

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