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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 consumer through OPI, $803 per month in state funds to serve a Medicaid in-home service consumer; $846 in state funds per month to serve a Medicaid consumer in a community-based care facility; and $3,168 per month in state funds to serve a Medicaid consumer 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 consumers 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 consumers also receive the Oregon Health Plan benefits, at an additional cost to the state. OPI consumers do not receive these benefits.

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

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