O4AD advocates for the independence, dignity, choice and safety of Oregon's older adults and people with disabilities. O4AD represents the 16 Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (AAA) serving the state's older adults and people with disabilities.

Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities

Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities

During the 25-27 biennium, Oregon anticipates serving:

- More than 36,000 older adults and people with physical disabilities per month who qualify for Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports.
- About 36,300 older adults and people with disabilities on any given day who rely on licensed long-term care settings for their care.
- Individuals who will make more than 50,000 calls seeking to report abuse or neglect or request information and referral services from Adult Protective Services. This number continues to increase from year to year.
- Over 75,000 older adults who will utilize SNAP benefits annually.
- Currently in Oregon, nearly 2/3 of all older adults being served in a nursing facility are utilizing Medicaid for this care. This is made possible through Medicaid eligibility and case management services provided by Medicaid staff.

Proposed reductions by the Oregon Department of Human Services will jeopardize access to Medicaid for older adults, people with disabilities and individuals seeking help through SNAP and the Oregon Health Plan.

Access to Medicaid long term services and supports, SNAP and the Oregon Health Plan should not be dependent on where you reside in the state.

Proposals by the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to claw back Medicaid funding for older adults and people with disabilities in specific counties in the west side of the state would undermine and jeopardize the health and safety of older adults and people with disabilities specifically served via a Medicaid Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities. The proposals presented would create immediate Medicaid inequities, not allowable by Medicaid regulation, for those receiving these entitled services in Multnomah, Marion, Polk, Clatsop, Yamhill, Tillamook, Linn, Benton, Lincoln and Lane counties.

To intentionally destabilize the Medicaid system of long-term services and supports, serving older adults and people with disabilities in our state, and to do so in only specific counties of the state, threatens the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable.

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The following ODHS budget reduction proposals that have been submitted prioritize reducing appropriations to fund the essential and required Medicaid functions in these counties ~

Medicaid Eligibility Including SNAP and the Oregon Health Plan

Medicaid Case Management

Medicaid Adult Protective Services

These positions are the front door to the Medicaid system.

An individual seeking services and support, community-based care, in home care or facility-based care through Medicaid must begin with Medicaid eligibility and case management to secure care. Abuse allegations begin the process of investigation and intervention with adult protective services workers.

While ODHS states there are no impacts to FTE/staffing by these proposed reductions (items 40, 39 and 38), this is inaccurate. These reductions would not impact ODHS staffing but it would immediately have the potential to impact Medicaid staff in these 10 counties, accounting for approximately 60% of the state's caseload for seniors and people with disabilities receiving Medicaid services. Clawing back funds allocated for the administration of Medicaid long term services and supports (LTSS) will undermine the ability in these areas to meet the rapidly increasing Federal regulatory requirements for Medicaid, already being done at 95% of the cost of the state to do the same work – a 5% cost savings by statute.

Clawing back funds from Medicaid Area Agencies could result in potential staff layoffs, staff reduction in hours and reopening collective bargaining agreements.

Oregon will face increased backlogs for care, higher caseloads for staff, delays in consumer eligibility determination, delays in case management which connects an individual to care, increased risk of Federal investigation, oversight, adverse action and penalties, an increased threat of Federal audits due to errors and not meeting Federal regulatory requirements, and delays in critical abuse investigations.

Oregon must protect access to Medicaid services and supports for older adults, people with disabilities and individuals seeking SNAP or Oregon Health Plan care. To intentionally undermine the system that allows access to Medicaid in select counties of the state is illogical and threatens those in need of care and those who provide those services.

Protect access to Medicaid services for ALL older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon.

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