



Oregon Association of Provider Agencies

Danya Ochoa - President

In-Home Agency Response to ODDS Proposed Budget Reduction Exercise

May 12th, 2020



On May 12, 2020 DHS Leadership in Oregon presented the results of a Budget Reduction Exercise that was intended to propose how cuts to State departments could theoretically be made and to what extent; this to inform the Governor and Legislature as they begin to finalize cuts in the next week.

The Governor and Legislators have a tough road ahead of them as they aim to eliminate an estimated 3 billion from the State’s budget.

The need for budget cuts is out of our control but where cuts are made is not.

In this Budget Exercise, ODDS Leadership detailed drastic reductions in certain Agency In-Home services including, but not limited to*

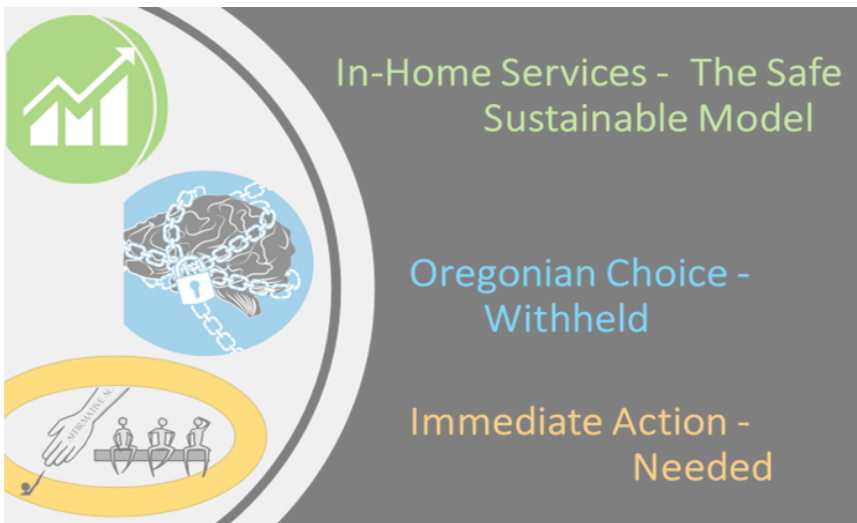
- In-Home community integration services- set to be cut 100%
- In-Home attendant care services - set to be cut by 9%
- In-Home employment supports - set to be cut 9%

[*figures based on the Oregon DHS 2020 Budget Reduction Exercise 5/12/20](#)

The Agency In-Home service, though the most financially sustainable model, is set to take the deepest budget cuts

With over 70% of Oregonians who experience I/DD currently using these services, cuts to this degree would be catastrophic to their health and safety. Their ability to live a life of their own choosing would be severely limited.

Further, cuts to this degree would critically destabilize the already dwindling workforce supporting those individuals, a workforce which was already waiting to be funded at levels commensurate to other services to support a living wage, further threatening health and safety of those served.





Agency In-Home services that have long been underfunded and overlooked are now on the verge of being so underfunded that they are eliminated.

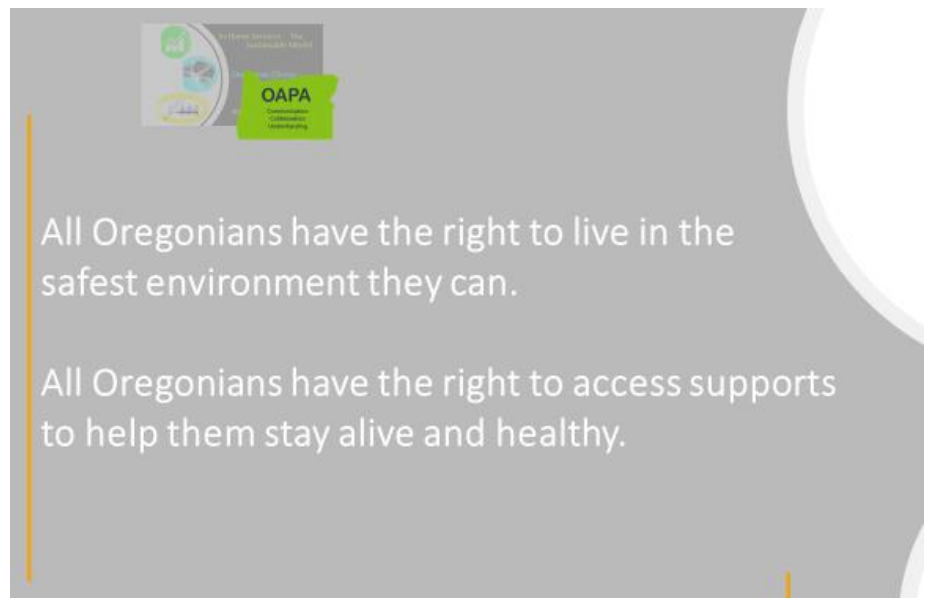
In-Home Agencies have been shutting down due to lack of adequate funding, specifically lacking due to consistent allocations of funding elsewhere.

- Near exclusion from the \$30 million 2019 Legislative Budget Ask despite extensive advocacy and collaboration
- 2020/21 funding for In-Home 1:1 ADLs approved under 70% when other services were approved for 90% funding for their rate models
- Contingency funding during COVID-19 for In-Home ADLs was not offered
- Contingency rate increases during COVID-19 for In-Home ADLs were not offered but residential services saw increases of 10%
- Campaigns to equalize all options and create continuity of incentives are showing that In-Home services are not being valued

Agency In-Home services have long been seen as the most politically expendable – yet no one’s needs should be expendable.

The Governor and Legislators are strongly urged to consider the far-reaching consequences and subsequent systematic fallout that will result from further reducing funding for In-Home Agencies to the point of mass closures. The most vulnerable Oregonians depend every day on In-Home Agency services to keep them from going into crisis and ending up in hospital emergency rooms which are already at critical capacity and are direly under supplied, in psychiatric units where those who have both I/DD and mental health barriers overlapping are not comprehensively understood or treated, homeless, injured due to inadequate staffing, or worse.

ODDS Leadership is being strongly urged to consider the same in regard to the people they are entrusted to serve and to reexamine the effects on them. ODDS is





being further urged to reconsider extent to which already battered and underfunded In-Home Agencies are being cut.

The law protects the rights of all individuals with I/DD to choose where to live. The law protects the rights of individuals with I/DD to choose who serves them. The law protects the rights of individuals with I/DD to have freedom of movement and to live a life of their choosing. Could those rights rightly be said to be honored while intentional systematic reduction in funding starves them of options to express those freedoms? No!

Anyone faced with the loss of choice has their feeling of control minimized. Can anyone feeling powerless rightly be expected to thrive? No!

We as advocates for the most vulnerable Oregonians need to **send a unified message to our Governor, our Legislators and our ODDS Leadership** that disproportionate and unsustainable **In-Home Agency reductions must stop.**

Participants and families, speak to your Legislators:

- ✓ Tell them your choice and your rights matter!
- ✓ Tell them that you and your needs are important!
- ✓ Tell them you want to be able to choose your services!
- ✓ Tell them you need In-Home to be funded!
- ✓ Tell them about your growth!
- ✓ Tell them to stop cutting your In-Home services!
- ✓ Send them a letter (you can use the letter we have on the website)

Service Providers:

- ✓ Send them a letter (you can use the letter we have on the website)
- ✓ Be loud about the need to allow those with I/DD to choose
- ✓ Tell Legislators In-Home needs to be funded
- ✓ Tell Legislators to stop cutting In-Home services – we are already underfunded
- ✓ Ask everyone you know to speak to their Legislators and pass along the position paper and this PDF
- ✓ Tell everyone you know to tell everyone they know





Please contact your Legislator today. Tell them to preserve In-Home funding as an option, not just residential, foster care, and supported living options. Click [here](#) to find who they are.

If you do not have the time to research your own Legislator, please take the time to contact at least these key individuals:

Co-Chairs, Ways and Means (they determine the final DHS's budget)

Betsy Johnson, State Senator

Email: Sen.BetsyJohnson@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: Capitol Phone:503-986-1716 District Phone:503-543-4046

Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, State Senator

Email: Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: Capitol Phone: 503-986-1717

Joint Committee on Human Services (they help the Co-Chairs with the budget decisions)

Lee Beyer, State Senator, Co-hair

Email: sen.leebeyer@state.or.us

Phone: 503-986-1706

Rob Nosse, State Representative, Co-Chair

Email: rep.robnosse@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: 503-986-1442

Other Joint Committee on Human Services Members

Bill Hansell, State Senator

Email: Sen.BillHansell@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: 503-986-1729

Cedric Hayden, State Representative, member

Email: rep.cedrichayden@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: 503-986-1407

Sheri Malstrom (Schouten), State Representative, member

Email: rep.sherimalstrom@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: 503-986-1427

Andrea Salinas, State Representative, member

Email: rep.andreasalinas@oregonlegislature.gov



Phone: 503-986-1438

Duane Stark, State Representative, member

Email: rep.duanestark@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: 503-986-1404

Rob Wagner, State Senator, member

Email: sen.robwagner@oregonlegislature.gov

Phone: 503-986-1719

Feel free to reach out to OAPA if you need assistance understanding or clarifying any of the above information:

Website

<https://oregonassociationofproviders.org>

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