

HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 2024

By COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

April 15

1 In line 2 of the printed bill, after “workforce” insert “; creating new provisions; amending sec-
2 tion 20, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024; and declaring an emergency”.

3 Delete lines 4 through 8 and insert:

4 **“SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, ‘behavioral health care’ means services and**
5 **supports for individuals who have mental health disorders or substance use disorders.**

6 **“(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a program to award grants to eligible**
7 **entities. The grants awarded under this section must be used to foster the recruitment and**
8 **retention of behavioral health care providers at the eligible entity.**

9 **“(3) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the following entities are eligible to receive**
10 **grants under this section, if the entity meets the requirements described in subsection (4)**
11 **of this section:**

12 **“(a) Urban Indian health programs operated by an urban Indian organization pursuant**
13 **to 25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.;**

14 **“(b) Recipients of the authority’s tribal mental health program grants;**

15 **“(c) Qualified medical providers that offer office-based medication-assisted treatment**
16 **services; and**

17 **“(d) Other entities that are not hospitals and that:**

18 **“(A) Have been certified by the authority to provide behavioral health care;**

19 **“(B) Provide behavioral health care through a program contracting with or administered**
20 **by the Oregon Youth Authority;**

21 **“(C) Provide behavioral health care rehabilitation services through a program contract-**
22 **ing with or administered by the Department of Human Services;**

23 **“(D) Are licensed opioid treatment programs; or**

24 **“(E) Provide withdrawal management services.**

25 **“(4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, an entity described in subsection (3) of this**
26 **section is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the entity:**

27 **“(a) Provides behavioral health care to adults or youth, of which at least 50 percent are**
28 **uninsured or enrolled in the state medical assistance program or Medicare;**

29 **“(b) Operates an outpatient or residential facility;**

30 **“(c) Provides team-based care; and**

31 **“(d) Serves individuals with acute behavioral health needs, as defined by the Oregon**
32 **Health Authority by rule.**

33 **“(5) The suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline, as described in ORS**
34 **430.627, is eligible to receive grants under this section.**

35 **“(6) An entity that receives a grant under subsection (2) of this section may use the**

1 funds to provide the following to behavioral health care providers, in an effort to increase
2 the recruitment and retention of behavioral health care providers at the entity:

3 “(a) Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students going into the behavioral
4 health care field;

5 “(b) Loan forgiveness and repayment incentives;

6 “(c) Housing assistance;

7 “(d) Sign-on bonuses;

8 “(e) Retention bonuses;

9 “(e) Wage increases;

10 “(f) Professional development;

11 “(g) Child care subsidies;

12 “(h) Tuition assistance;

13 “(i) Bonuses and stipends for supervisors of interns; and

14 “(j) Stipends for students enrolled in graduate behavioral health care educational pro-
15 grams.

16 “(7) Notwithstanding the definition of ‘compensation’ in ORS 652.210, a sign-on or re-
17 tention bonus or other incentive described in subsection (6) of this section is not a violation
18 of ORS 652.220.

19 “(8)(a) An entity that receives a grant under subsection (2) of this section shall report
20 to the Oregon Health Authority, in the form and manner prescribed by the authority, on how
21 the entity spent the grant and how the expenditures impacted the recruitment and retention
22 of behavioral health care providers at the entity. The report must include, as applicable to
23 the entity, the following information:

24 “(A) The licensure, certification or position type of each behavioral health care provider
25 who received an incentive listed in subsection (6) of this section;

26 “(B) The amount of grant moneys spent per behavioral health care provider; and

27 “(C) The entity’s staffing vacancy rate prior to receiving the grant under subsection (2)
28 of this section and after receiving the grant under subsection (2) of this section.

29 “(b) In prescribing the form and manner of the report described in this subsection, the
30 authority shall seek to minimize the administrative burden imposed on the entities to the
31 extent practicable.

32 “SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section:

33 “(a) ‘Coordinated care organization’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.

34 “(b) ‘Eligible entity’ means an entity that is eligible to receive grants under section 1 of
35 this 2025 Act.

36 “(c) ‘Medical assistance’ has the meaning given that term in ORS 414.025.

37 “(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall develop and implement an incentive payment to
38 be paid to eligible entities, regardless of payment methodology, under the state medical as-
39 sistance program. The incentive payment must be designed to:

40 “(a) Allow eligible entities to increase employee wages to levels that are more compet-
41 itive with reimbursement rates for entities that are not eligible to receive grants under
42 section 1 of this 2025 Act; and

43 “(b) Be additive to existing revenue streams for eligible entities, including but not limited
44 to the revenue streams for community mental health programs established under ORS
45 430.630, certified community behavioral health clinics described in section 14, chapter 70,

1 Oregon Laws 2024, and federally qualified health centers as defined in 42 U.S.C. 254b.

2 “(3) A coordinated care organization may reimburse the cost of services provided by an
3 entity that is not eligible to receive grants under section 1 of this 2025 Act to medical as-
4 sistance recipients at rates up to 10 percent below the fee-for-service reimbursement rates
5 paid by the authority.

6 “(4) The authority shall seek any necessary approval from the Centers for Medicare and
7 Medicaid Services to secure federal financial participation in the costs of the incentive pay-
8 ments described in subsection (2) of this section.

9 “SECTION 3. Section 20, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024, is amended to read:

10 “**Sec. 20.** (1) The United We Heal Medicaid Payment Program is established in the Oregon
11 Health Authority. The goal of the program is to increase the available behavioral health care
12 workforce in this state **through workforce recruitment and retention strategies**. The authority
13 shall provide supplemental medical assistance payments to eligible behavioral health care
14 [providers] **entities** to enable the [providers] **entities** to access enhanced apprenticeship and train-
15 ing programs and opportunities, **increased wages, health care benefits and workplace safety**
16 **standards** by participating in a labor-management training trust.

17 “(2) The authority shall prescribe by rule eligibility criteria for receiving the payments consist-
18 ent with the goal of the program expressed in subsection (1) of this section.

19 “(3) To participate in the program, a behavioral health [provider must] **care entity shall** enter
20 into a memorandum of understanding with the authority specifying how the [payments will be used]
21 **entity will use the payments received under this section. Allowable uses of payments under**
22 **this section must include enhanced opportunities for apprenticeships and on-the-job training,**
23 **wrap-around services, increased wages, health care benefits and workplace safety standards**
24 **through participation in a labor-management training trust.** The authority shall terminate
25 payments if the [provider] **entity** fails to abide by or violates the terms of the memorandum of
26 understanding. [A provider] **An entity** may request a contested case proceeding to challenge a ter-
27 mination.

28 “SECTION 4. There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium
29 beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$20,000,000 for the purpose
30 of carrying out the provisions of section 1 of this 2025 Act.

31 “SECTION 5. There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium
32 beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$20,000,000 for the purpose
33 of carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2025 Act.

34 “SECTION 6. There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium
35 beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of
36 carrying out section 20, chapter 70, Oregon Laws 2024, as amended by section 3 of this 2025
37 Act.

38 “SECTION 7. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
39 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect
40 July 1, 2025.”.
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