

Requested by Representative NOSSE

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
HOUSE BILL 2024**

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

4 Delete lines 4 through 8 and insert:

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

8 **“(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall establish a program to**
9 **award grants to eligible entities. The grants awarded under this sec-**
10 **tion must be used to foster the recruitment and retention of behav-**
11 **ioral health care providers at the eligible entity.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(C) Provide behavioral health care rehabilitation services through
6 a program contracting with or administered by the Department of
7 Human Services;

8 “(D) Are licensed opioid treatment programs; or

9 “(E) Provide withdrawal management services.

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

13 “(a) Provides behavioral health care to adults or youth, of which
14 at least 50 percent are uninsured or enrolled in the state medical as-
15 sistance program or Medicare;

16 “(b) Operates an outpatient or residential facility;

17 “(c) Provides team-based care; and

18 “(d) Serves individuals with acute behavioral health needs, as de-
19 fined by the Oregon Health Authority by rule.

20 “(5) The suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline, as
21 described in ORS 430.627, is eligible to receive grants under this sec-
22 tion.

23 “(6) An entity that receives a grant under subsection (2) of this
24 section may use the funds to provide the following to behavioral
25 health care providers, in an effort to increase the recruitment and
26 retention of behavioral health care providers at the entity:

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

29 “(b) Loan forgiveness and repayment incentives;

30 “(c) Housing assistance;

1 **“(d) Sign-on bonuses;**
2 **“(e) Retention bonuses;**
3 **“(e) Wage increases;**
4 **“(f) Professional development;**
5 **“(g) Child care subsidies;**
6 **“(h) Tuition assistance;**
7 **“(i) Bonuses and stipends for supervisors of interns; and**
8 **“(j) Stipends for students enrolled in graduate behavioral health**
9 **care educational programs.**

10 **“(7) Notwithstanding the definition of ‘compensation’ in ORS**
11 **652.210, a sign-on or retention bonus or other incentive described in**
12 **subsection (6) of this section is not a violation of ORS 652.220.**

13 **“(8)(a) An entity that receives a grant under subsection (2) of this**
14 **section shall report to the Oregon Health Authority, in the form and**
15 **manner prescribed by the authority, on how the entity spent the grant**
16 **and how the expenditures impacted the recruitment and retention of**
17 **behavioral health care providers at the entity. The report must in-**
18 **clude, as applicable to the entity, the following information:**

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

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

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

27 **“(b) In prescribing the form and manner of the report described in**
28 **this subsection, the authority shall seek to minimize the administra-**
29 **tive burden imposed on the entities to the extent practicable.**

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

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

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

5 “(c) ‘Medical assistance’ has the meaning given that term in ORS
6 414.025.

7 “(2) The Oregon Health Authority shall develop and implement an
8 incentive payment to be paid to eligible entities, regardless of payment
9 methodology, under the state medical assistance program. The incen-
10 tive payment must be designed to:

11 “(a) Allow eligible entities to increase employee wages to levels that
12 are more competitive with reimbursement rates for entities that are
13 not eligible to receive grants under section 1 of this 2025 Act; and

14 “(b) Be additive to existing revenue streams for eligible entities,
15 including but not limited to the revenue streams for community
16 mental health programs established under ORS 430.630, certified com-
17 munity behavioral health clinics described in section 14, chapter 70,
18 Oregon Laws 2024, and federally qualified health centers as defined in
19 42 U.S.C. 254b.

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

25 “(4) The authority shall seek any necessary approval from the
26 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to secure federal financial
27 participation in the costs of the incentive payments described in sub-
28 section (2) of this section.

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

1 **“Sec. 20.** (1) The United We Heal Medicaid Payment Program is estab-
2 lished in the Oregon Health Authority. The goal of the program is to in-
3 crease the available behavioral health care workforce in this state **through**
4 **workforce recruitment and retention strategies.** The authority shall
5 provide supplemental medical assistance payments to eligible behavioral
6 health care [*providers*] **entities** to enable the [*providers*] **entities** to access
7 enhanced apprenticeship and training programs and opportunities, **increased**
8 **wages, health care benefits and workplace safety standards** by partic-
9 ipating in a labor-management training trust.

10 “(2) The authority shall prescribe by rule eligibility criteria for receiving
11 the payments consistent with the goal of the program expressed in subsection
12 (1) of this section.

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

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

28 **“SECTION 5. There is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority,**
29 **for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the**
30 **amount of \$20,000,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions**

1 of section 2 of this 2025 Act.

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

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

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