



This Legislative Summary Report highlights Human Services policy measures that received a public hearing in a policy committee during the **2024** regular legislative session. The report is organized by subtopics and includes the measure number; the measure status: enacted [✓] or not enacted [✗]; and a brief description of the measure.

Human Services Subtopics

- [Benefits and Assistance Programs](#)
- [Child Welfare](#)
- [Supported Care Settings](#)
- [Systems of Care](#)

Benefits and Assistance Programs

SB 1518	✗	The measure would have specified that a Compact of Free Association (COFA) citizen residing in Oregon may not be denied public assistance, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, based on the COFA citizen's immigration status.
SB 1570	✗	The measure would have appropriated funding for distribution to the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties for a social services resource center. Note: Funding for provisions of the measure was included in SB 5701 (2024).
SB 1585	✓	The measure creates a task force to create a program that permits Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to have more food choices, including being able to buy hot meals with their benefits. The Department of Human Services (ODHS) will staff the task force. ODHS will also create a plan based on the group's findings to let SNAP users use their benefits to buy hot food.
HB 4085 A	✗	The measure would have directed the Department of Human Services (ODHS) to provide grants to assist noncitizens in covering the costs of immigration legal services or fees associated with changing their immigration status or obtaining lawful permanent resident status. The measure would have specified the allowable uses of grants, adjusted grant amounts based on an individual's income, and authorized the department to establish eligibility criteria and adopt rules for implementation. The measure would have appropriated \$6 million to ODHS.

- HB 4131** ✗ The measure would have appropriated \$10 million from the General Fund to the Housing and Community Services Department for the current biennium to make matching deposits into individual development accounts.
- Note:** Funding was enacted as part of [SB 1530](#) (2024). The measure is also included in the Legislative Summary Report on Housing, Development, and Homelessness.
- HB 4159** ✗ The measure would have directed the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA) to coordinate the provision of support services to individuals who are recent arrivals to Oregon and the United States and are not already receiving such services through the federal refugee resettlement program. The measure would have required OIRA to perform annual performance audits of contracted entities to evaluate compliance and financial effectiveness. The measure also would have established an advisory council to facilitate communication and make recommendations regarding the program.

Child Welfare

- SB 1579** ✓ The measure creates a special fund in the State Treasury for advocacy centers that support abused children. It directs the legislature to provide enough funds to ensure that all the centers helping these children are fully funded. The measure requires the Department of Justice to establish a one-time grant program to provide additional funding to these centers. A task force will be set up to study the best practices for multidisciplinary teams and report to the legislature.
- HB 4086** ✓ The measure requires the Department of Human Services (ODHS) to commission studies through a private facilitator on the scope of child abuse investigations and the response to children exhibiting problematic sexual behavior. The measure requires both studies to involve advisory committees and report to interim legislative committees by September 2025.
- HB 4087 A** ✗ The measure would have directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), the Department of Human Services (ODHS), and the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) to establish a pilot program to expand residential systems of care for certain children and youth by issuing capacity payments to providers.



Supported Care Settings

- SB 1521** ✓ The measure sets up a new initiative to provide better assistance to employers of personal support workers. The measure mandates that by January 1, 2026, the Department of Human Services (ODHS) must have at least one organization in place to deliver agency with choice services. Additionally, there are regulations in place to prevent agencies from offering incentives for enrollment or employment. Before making any changes to acuity-based staffing tools used by facilities, ODHS must evaluate the potential impact on administrative processes, as well as the safety of residents and staff. The measure directs ODHS to contract with licensed child-caring agencies for the provision of placement safety or crisis support. The measure delays requirements for installing automatic sprinkler systems in certain residential facilities.
- SB 1591** ✗ The measure would have changed how many residents an adult foster home can have and would have permitted up to seven residents instead of just five. Adult foster homes must follow specific rules and pay certain fees to care for more than five older adults. The Department of Human Services would have made rules for licensing these homes with more than five residents.
- HB 4129** ✓ The measure defines “agency with choice services” as personal care services for older adults, individuals with physical disabilities, and individuals with behavioral health needs, provided under a self-directed service delivery model of co-employment for direct support workers. The measure requires the Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules for licensing organizations that provide agency with choice services and to contract with up to two agencies by January 1, 2026. The measure specifies the requirements and responsibilities of licensed agencies, clients’ rights, employment conditions, reimbursement structures, and contract provisions.

Systems of Care

- SB 1522 A** ✗ The measure would have prohibited the forceful admission of individuals into a care facility because they have an intellectual disability and would have prohibited public bodies from refusing services to someone with a mental illness just because they also have an intellectual disability starting July 1, 2025.



SB 1557

The measure mandates the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to provide services and support to individuals under 21 in Oregon using funding from the Community First Choice option. The measure mandates that OHA and the Department of Human Services collaborate to support all multi-system involved children and youth. The measure clarifies that individuals under 21 should not be turned away from mental health services just because they have an intellectual or developmental disability. OHA must collaborate with the Department of Education to allocate federal funds for eligible Oregon students under 21. Furthermore, the measure specifies that evaluations by mental health professionals must be funded by the county or Oregon Public Defense Commission, and it restricts the duration of relocations for such evaluations to 14 days.

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