

What you need to know about the federal government's sharing of personal information

You may have seen reports that the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is sharing Medicaid data with immigration enforcement officials. We understand that these reports have caused deep fear, frustration, and anger across our communities.

What does this mean for Oregon?

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) manages Medicaid for 1.4 million Oregonians through the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). OHP and Healthier Oregon are names for healthcare coverage programs offered in Oregon for no cost to people based on their income and other qualifications.

CMS has always required OHA to share information about OHP members

CMS requires OHA to provide monthly reports about how Oregon uses federal funds to provide Medicaid services. The report data includes:

- OHP member names, addresses, and dates of birth
- Medicaid ID numbers
- Social security numbers if provided
- Citizenship status

CMS is requesting more information than usual

On June 6, 2025, CMS asked for information about people whose immigration status doesn't allow them to have full Medicaid benefits. CMS said the reason is to check that federal funds are being used properly. The deadline for the data is July 30, 2025.

OHA is reviewing the request and hasn't responded yet

OHA is carefully considering how to respond to this CMS request because we can't control how CMS will use the data. For this reason, we're reviewing all legal and policy options we have to try to prevent its misuse.

Oregon joined a multistate lawsuit

Oregon is part of a lawsuit to prevent CMS from sharing protected Medicaid information with the Department of Homeland Security. It also seeks to prevent the data from being used for immigration enforcement purposes.

Joining this lawsuit doesn't mean Oregon can stop sharing required information about federal programs and funding. But we will continue to look at all policy and legal options we have to protect it.

OHA's core commitment hasn't changed. We prioritize privacy as a fundamental element of public health and community safety.

What this means for you

OHA routinely shares data with CMS about claims, health care visits, enrollment, and member eligibility. That means if you ever enrolled in OHP or Healthier Oregon, OHA has at some point shared your personally identifiable information with CMS. For this reason, CMS may know your name, address, and citizenship status.

What this means for your health care

We understand you may be afraid that CMS may be sharing your information with immigration enforcement. You might decide not to use Medicaid or delay seeking medical care.

OHA's mission is to make sure all people in Oregon have access to medical care to stay healthy and thrive. If you chose not to use the Oregon Health Plan for your medical needs, we recommend you speak with your health care provider about other options.

Stay informed

Visit OHA's <u>Monitoring Federal Changes and any Impacts on Oregon webpage</u> to get updates on federal changes, their effect on Oregon, and what the state is doing.

Information and help

- Contact OHA directly with questions or concerns at <u>Ask.OHP@odhsoha.</u> oregon.gov.
- The Oregon Department of Human Services <u>Office of Immigrant and Refugee</u>
 <u>Advancement website</u> has resources, fact sheets, news, and updates for
 immigrant and refugee populations across the state.
- Visit the <u>Equity Corps of Oregon website</u> to see if you qualify for free legal counsel.
- If you see U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in your community, call the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) hotline,1-888-622-1510. Visit their <u>website</u> to learn more.
- The Oregon Law Center and Latino Network developed a <u>packet</u> to help families prepare for emergencies, including immigration detention.
- The National Immigration Law Center developed a <u>resource library</u> including guides, toolkits, policy briefs and more.
- The Oregon Department of Justice developed the <u>Sanctuary Promise Community</u> <u>Toolkit</u> covering essential information needed to understand Oregon's Sanctuary Law and report violations.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer free of charge. Contact the Office of Community Health and Engagement at community.outreach@oha.oregon.gov or 800-699-9075. We accept all relay calls.

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200-1086100b (07/2025)