

Oregon Project Independence Expansion Pilot

What is Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Expansion?

Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Program was created in 1975 to assist individuals over the age of 60, regardless of income, with in-home services to help them stay in their own homes.

In 2014 the Legislature provided funding to expand the OPI program to serve individuals between the ages of 19-59 in certain areas of the state. This is a one-year pilot ending on June 30, 2015 which will study the need and cost of providing the OPI program to younger adults on a permanent basis.

To qualify for OPI you must need in-home assistance based on an assessment and not be receiving full medical coverage through Medicaid, such as the Oregon Health Plan.

Which counties will be offering the OPI program to individuals younger than 60 years of age?

Beginning in August 2014, the following counties will offer OPI services to adults between the ages of 19-59: Benton, Clatsop, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Umatilla and Washington.

Please note that the OPI program serving adults age 60 and over is available in all Oregon counties, although some areas may have waiting lists.

How can OPI help you stay in your own home?

The Oregon Project Independence (OPI) Program enables you to receive help so you can remain in your own home. You and a Service Coordinator from your local Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities will complete an assessment and develop a plan for the services you need. The assessment will help you and the Service Coordinator understand your need for assistance in activities such as walking, getting in/out of a chair, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, taking medications, housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping, transportation, laundry.

You and the Service Coordinator will look at the resources and supports already available to you and together you will build a cost-effective Service Plan. Only certain types of services are covered, these include:

- Home care assistance such as housekeeping, laundry, shopping, meal preparation and medication management;
- Personal care assistance with eating, dressing/grooming, bathing/personal hygiene, mobility, elimination (toileting);
- Chore services such as heavy housekeeping and yard work on an one-time or intermittent basis;
- Assistive Technology such as a wheelchair ramp or other type of product that assists with functioning;
- Home-delivered meals;
- Adult day services;
- Nursing services;
- Support for caregivers;
- Options counseling to assist with accessing community resources;
- Assisted transportation;
- Health promotion services.

OPI services are modest and typically provide 20-30 hours of service per month.

How much do OPI services cost?

Based on an individual's income after deductions for medical expenses, you may be asked to pay a fee for a portion of the services you receive. If your income is low you will only pay a small amount. The 2014 fee schedule can be viewed at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/spwpd/sua/docs/opi-fee-schedule.pdf> .

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging and Disability to learn about the OPI Program

Each county in Oregon has a designated Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities that is either a local government or non-profit social services agency. Call toll-free to Oregon's Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at 1-855-673-2372 to be connected to the agency serving your zip code or visit www.adrcforegon.org and click on the "Connect" button.