

NEWS RELEASE



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Record demand for state services to continue through 2013

Record-breaking demand for health and human services is predicted to continue through the end of the next biennium, according to a forecast report released today by the Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Health Authority. The report shows the demand for state services is expected to keep rising and continue longer than predicted last spring.

"The story of the health and human services budget over the next two years continues to be that of unrelenting increases in demand and need for assistance to Oregonians who are experiencing the effects of this global recession," said Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of DHS and director-designee of OHA.

Tuesday's announcement that state unemployment numbers remained steady again at 10.6 percent for the 11th month in a row means that Oregonians facing joblessness or underemployment will continue to turn to the state for assistance with basic needs such as food and health care.

"The forecast is driven by the budget's two sides: the same economic forces that have created the decline in state revenues have also forced more and more people to turn to the state for assistance," Dr. Goldberg said.

The Fall 2010 DHS/OHA Caseload Forecast shows:

- Demand for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) is predicted to continue growing until March 2012, when it will peak at 788,359 people, an increase of 8 percent over today's numbers. Today's report forecasts the demand for SNAP lasting 16 months longer than predicted by the spring forecast. Last month a total of 730,379 Oregonians received SNAP benefits.
- The monthly average of Oregon Health Plan clients is forecast to increase by 18.5 percent to 669,000 clients by mid-2013. Last month, a total of 546,705 Oregonians received Oregon Health Plan benefits.
- The number of Oregonians needing long-term care services is growing in response to both the economic downturn and the shifting demographics of the aging population. A nearly 7 percent increase over current levels is expected to result in 30,700 people in long-term care by mid-2013.

To see the complete forecast, including graphs of the increasing need, [click here](#).

(cont.)

Background:

The DHS/OHA Office of Forecasting, Research and Analysis produces comprehensive caseload forecasts twice a year to anticipate the future service needs in all major program areas. The Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority Caseload Forecast is based on legislative and program policies and practices in place at the time of the forecast; the current economic forecast for the state; current expectations about demographic changes; and partner and field staff analysis.

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(See forecast chart on page 3.)

DHS AND OHA NEED FORECAST 2011-2013 BIENNIUM

