



# Access to care is on the line.

Oregon's community hospitals are under extreme financial strain. They have already made difficult trade-offs to keep their doors open, impacting emergency care, maternity care, and behavioral health services in communities across Oregon.



of Oregon community hospitals lost money in 2023.

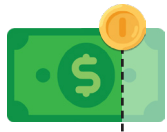


is the gap between what it cost hospitals to care for Oregon Health Plan members in 2022 and how much they were paid.

## How you can support hospitals so they can support you.

- ✓ Increase Oregon Health Plan payments to hospitals to cover the cost of care.
- ✓ Help hospital patients quickly move to the next appropriate care setting.
- ✓ Promote patient-centered health insurer reform.

# 1 Increase Oregon Health Plan payments for hospitals to help cover the cost of care.



On average, the Oregon Health Plan pays hospitals **70 cents for every dollar** of care provided.

Oregonians depend on access to hospital services. For hospitals to continue to serve our communities and maintain vital services, they need to be paid enough to cover the cost of care. We support protecting coverage for those on the Oregon Health Plan by reauthorizing provider taxes and increasing Oregon Health Plan payments to hospitals so they can serve all Oregonians.

## Policy solutions:

- ✔ Join Oregon community hospitals in supporting the reauthorization of provider taxes to fully fund the Oregon Health Plan.
- ✔ Increase Oregon Health Plan payments to hospitals so they can continue to serve our communities.

# 2 Help hospital patients quickly move to the next appropriate care setting.



Patients spent **45,000 days** in Oregon hospitals waiting for the right level of care in the first half 2024 alone.

When hospitals can't transfer patients to the next appropriate level of care, fewer beds are available for community members in need. "Boarding" patients in hospital emergency departments can negatively impact their health.

## Policy solutions:

- ✔ Create more timely access to long-term services and supports (such as care in community-based settings or nursing homes) for Oregon Health Plan members by presuming their eligibility for coverage.
- ✔ Extend benefits for skilled nursing facility-level care for Oregon Health Plan members.

# 3 Promote patient-centered health insurer reform.



Nationally, nearly six of 10 adults who experience a coverage denial **said their care was delayed as a result.**<sup>1</sup>

Insurance companies are using tactics such as automatic claims denials and burdensome prior authorization requirements that increase costs for hospitals and providers—putting patients at risk by delaying care.

## Policy solutions:

- ✔ Make it easier for patients to understand and access health care benefits.
- ✔ Improve utilization management, claims processing, and patient billing.