



PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

ADVOCACY & SERVICES SINCE 1995

The Network
News
2019
September
Issue #231

OREGON HIV CASE MANAGEMENT



Apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out to you all!

Next Meeting

**9-10:30 a.m.
800 NE
Oregon**

**November
12th**

Topic

**To be
determined**

Met Zele!!

Lauren Nathe, Corrie Halladay and Kurt Hunter of Partnership Project went to the Trauma Informed Oregon Conference this week and met Zele the Trauma Response Dog.

Doesn't Zele make your day better?



Social Security News

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for nearly 69 million Americans will increase 1.6 percent in 2020, the Social Security Administration announced today.

The 1.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 63 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2020. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2019. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$137,700 from \$132,900. Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their *my* Security account. People may create or access their *my* Security account online at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2020, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2020 are announced. Final 2020 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and *my* Social Security's Message Center. The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To read more, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Every year on Veterans Day, our nation honors the people who risk their lives to protect our country. Social Security's disability program is an important part of our obligation to wounded warriors and their families.

For military members who return home with injuries, Social Security is a resource they can turn to. If you know any wounded veterans, please let them know about Social Security's Wounded Warriors website. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

The Wounded Warriors website answers many commonly asked questions, and shares other useful information about disability benefits, including how veterans can receive expedited processing of disability claims. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.

The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. Even active duty military who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they're unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay doesn't necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits. Although a person can't receive Social Security disability benefits while engaging in substantial work for pay or profit, receipt of military payments should never stop someone from applying for disability benefits from Social Security.

Social Security honors veterans and active duty members of the military every day by giving them the respect they deserve. Let these heroes know they can count on us when they need to take advantage of their earned benefits. Our webpages are easy to share on social media and by email with your friends and family.

Social Security News Continued

Having a job means different things to different people, but it can give you a sense of self, a community to rely on, and much-needed structure. Some people define themselves through their work. Others may enjoy the social aspect of their jobs. If you rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments or Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits and want to start working or return to work, Social Security can help. A plan for achieving self-support (PASS) is a plan for your future. This plan lets you use your income or the resources you own to help you reach your work goals. You could set aside money to go to school and get specialized training for a job or to start a business. PASS is for both SSI and SSDI. The job that you want should allow you to earn enough to reduce or eliminate the SSI or SSDI benefits you currently receive.

You should use the PASS if all of these apply to you:

- You want to work.
- You get SSI (or can qualify for SSI by having this plan) because you have a disability or are blind.
- You have income, other than SSI, or resources above the resource limit, to use to get a job or start a business.

In some cases, someone on SSDI can use a PASS and become eligible for SSI while pursuing the plan. Your employment income may reduce or eliminate your SSDI benefits. Under SSI rules, any income that you have may reduce your SSI payment. But if you have an approved plan, you can use most of that income to pay for the items you need to reach your work goal.

We don't count money set aside under the PASS when we decide your SSI payment amount. This means you may get a higher SSI payment. However, you can't get more than the maximum SSI payment for the state where you live. With an approved plan, you can set aside money to pay expenses needed to reach your work goal. You can read all about what work expenses are covered, and more, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-11017.pdf.

The plan must be in writing, and Social Security must approve it beforehand. To start, contact your local Social Security office for an application (Form SSA-545-BK). You can access this form at www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-545.html.

If you need help, there are many people who can help you write a PASS, including a Ticket to Work service provider, vocational counselor or a relative. Social Security's Ticket to Work (Ticket) program supports career development for Social Security disability beneficiaries who want to work. The Ticket program is free and voluntary. The Ticket program helps people with disabilities progress toward financial independence. To learn more about the Ticket program, call the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

Your job isn't just a source of income — it can be a vehicle to independence or a beginning to fulfilling your dreams. Let Social Security's PASS help you achieve your goals.

It's Open Enrollment Season!

Some helpful materials to help get you and your clients through CCO 2.0 Click [here](#)

Click on the + on the right hand side and you will see many options of different materials in multiple languages



Member Mailings and Outreach

Information in multiple languages

CCO Comparison Guide

This guide only includes information about CCO plans in areas where members have plan choices.

- [English Guide](#)
- [Español / Spanish Guide](#)
- [العربية / Arabic Guide](#)
- [Русский / Russian Guide](#)
- [简体中文 / Simplified Chinese Guide](#)
- [繁體中文 / Traditional Chinese Guide](#)
- [Soomaali / Somali Guide](#)
- [Tiếng Việt / Vietnamese Guide](#)

Pick Your Plan Worksheet

This worksheet helps OHP members compare and choose plans.

- [English Worksheet](#)
- [Español / Spanish Worksheet](#)
- [العربية / Arabic Worksheet](#)
- [Русский / Russian Worksheet](#)
- [简体中文 / Simplified Chinese Worksheet](#)
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October Member Letter

Elija Su Plan



El Plan de Salud de Oregon (OHP) tiene planes de salud en su área que le ayudan a usar sus beneficios. Estos planes se llaman organizaciones de atención coordinada o CCOs. Habrá cambios de opciones en los planes de CCO en su área. **Usted puede comparar los planes y decidir qué funciona mejor para usted y su familia.**

OHP encontró un plan de CCO para usted basado en sus médicos y la atención que recibe ahora.

Hay ayuda disponible:

1. Considere

¿Es este el plan adecuado para usted?

2. Compare

¿Satisfacen mejor sus necesidades los otros planes?

3. Elija

Si desea elegir un plan de CCO diferente, dígame a OHP su decisión.

Dígale a OHP su decisión



En línea en <http://bit.ly/CCOchoice>



Por teléfono al **877-647-0027 (TTY 711)**



Mediante un socio comunitario de confianza. Puede encontrar uno en OHP.Oregon.gov.

Fechas importantes

Nov 17

Si no elige otro plan de CCO **antes del 17 de noviembre**, el plan que le encontramos empezará el **1 de enero del 2020**.

Mar 31

Entre el 1 de enero y el 31 de marzo del 2020, puede poner a prueba su plan de CCO y cambiarlo por cualquier motivo.

¡Si está contento con el plan de CCO que encontramos para usted, no tiene que hacer nada!

Puede obtener esta carta en otro idioma, letra grande u otra forma que sea mejor para usted. Llame al Plan de Salud de Oregon al 877-647-0027. Aceptamos todas las llamadas de retransmisión o puede marcar 711.

Pick Your Plan



OHP has local health plans that help you use your benefits. These plans are called coordinated care organizations or CCOs. There are changes to the CCO plan choices in your area. **You get to choose the plan that works best for you and your family.**

OHP started by matching you with a CCO plan based on the doctors you see and the care you get now.

We can help you:

1. Consider

Is this the right plan for you?

2. Compare

Do other plans better meet your needs?

3. Choose

If you want to choose a different CCO plan, tell OHP your choice.

Tell OHP your choice



Online at <http://bit.ly/CCOchoice>



By phone at 877-647-0027 (TTY 711)



Through a trusted community partner. You can find one at OHP.Oregon.gov.

Important due dates



If you don't choose another CCO plan by **November 17**, your matched plan will start **January 1, 2020**.



Between January 1 and March 31, 2020, you can try out your CCO plan and change it for any reason.

If you're happy with your matched plan, you don't have to do anything!

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Health Plan at 877-647-0027. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

Medicare Open Enrollment [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)

2020 Open Enrollment is here - and ends Dec 7

Find 2020 Health & Drug Plans

Get Started with Medicare

And of course the Marketplace through [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)

2020 Open Enrollment runs from Nov 1 – Dec 15. Are you ready?

First time applying here?

GET READY TO APPLY

Have a 2019 Marketplace plan?

GET READY TO KEEP/CHANGE

Links to Helpful Resources

- Marketplace Assister Training [Resources](#) and [Webinar](#)
- [Technical Assistance Resources](#)
- CMS Marketplace [Applications & Forms](#)
- CMS [Outreach and Education](#) Resources
- [Marketplace.CMS.gov](https://www.cms.gov/marketplace) Page
- [Browse 2020 Marketplace Plans](#)



In an effort to remain aware of all of our programmatic and staff changes throughout the HIV community in Oregon we would like to collect and share that information. Programmatic & staff changes should be sent to lagermes@ohsu.edu by the last Wednesday of the month.

Cascade AIDS Project Announces:

Kayla Epp, who was CAP's ERA (Emergency Rent Assistance) person (Short Term Rent Assistance Coordinator) has left her position and CAP is in the process of interviewing for her replacement.

In the mean time, please have Clients contact, Amy LeSage if they are needing help paying rent, utilities, or move in deposits.

Erin Edmonds (they, them, theirs) started Monday, October 14th as the Service Center Coordinator.

CAP is hiring for two new Peer Support Specialists. One will be co-located at EMO's HIV Day Center and the other CAP Davis office. These two folks will be working with clients who are interested in setting goals around housing sustainability.

You can view of all CAP's open positions [here](#) They include:

CAP Main Office, 520 NW Davis St., Suite 215, Portland

[Chief Financial Officer \(CFO\)](#)

[Director of Development & Communications](#)

[Prevention Navigator](#)

[Bilingual Prevention Navigator](#)

[Housing Navigator](#)

[Bilingual Housing Navigator](#)

[Emergency Rent Assistance Coordinator](#)

[Peer Support Specialist](#)

[Peer Support Specialist - HIV Day Center](#)

[HIV/STI Testing Counselor](#)

Prism Health (LGBTQ+ Health Center), 2236 SE Belmont, Portland

[Certified Medical Assistant](#)

[Nurse Practitioner](#)

[Registered Nurse](#)

[Site Specialist](#)

SW Washington

[SW Washington Bilingual Prevention Navigator](#)

CAP Announcements continue

Cynthia 'Cynta' Butts [she/her/hers], new Housing Case Manager, and **Pedro Andrade** [he/him/his], new Bilingual Housing Case Manager at the CAP-Davis St.

Miguel Carreon, Prism Nurse Practitioner, left his position at Prism Health.

Housing Readiness Hours Basic Info:

Who? Any CAP client seeking Housing-related help.

What? Tenant education and advocacy, apply to CAP's Housing Waitlist, get one-on-one help with housing questions, prepare for move-in, get housing resources including info on current open units and waitlists & more!

Where? CAP Davis St. Office in the Service Center (520 NW Davis St. Suite 215)

When? Tuesdays and Fridays, 9AM – 12PM; Workshops are Fridays 11AM-12PM dependent on turnout. Some topics include budgeting, assistance animals, writing a cover letter, reasonable accommodation. Additional topics coming soon.

Anything else?

CAP clients seeking Housing Readiness help who cannot make it to Housing Readiness Hours (HRH) can make an appointment with the Housing Readiness Coordinator (HRC) – me! By calling directly: 503 278 3834 or emailing efriedman@cascadeaids.org

Rent Well will be coming late this fall!

CAP Housing Waitlist Applications can be filled out during HRH, CAP intake, or by walking into the Service Center, open 9AM-5PM M-Th, 9AM-3PM Fri.

To qualify for HRH, folks must be a CAP client. Call reception, 503. 223. 5907, to schedule an intake if the person seeking Housing Readiness help is not currently a CAP client.

Emilie Friedman | Housing Readiness Coordinator

Cascade AIDS Project | Direct 503 278 3834

Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs

MAI Navigation for the Black Community

What does this look like?

The new MAI Navigator is an Urban League employee, Robb Lawrence (he/him). He will remain an Urban League employee, supervised by Oluchi Onyima (she/her), Community Health Programs Manager at Urban League. The Manager of Short Term Housing and MAI Services at CAP, Amy LeSage (she/her), will provide support on the CAP end of the partnership.

When can I start referring patients/participants?

Right now! Robb is accepting referrals to the program and will begin compiling a caseload during his onboarding and training. Referrals can be sent to Robb directly.

Who should I contact?

Robb Lawrence, African American HIV Services Navigator, Urban League, rlawrence@ulpdx.org, P: 503 280-2600 ext. 655

Oluchi Onyima, Community Health Programs Manager, Urban League, onyima@ulpdx.org, P: 503-280-2600

Amy LeSage, Manager of Short Term Housing and MAI Services, Cascade AIDS Project, alesage@cascadeaids.org, P: 503-278-3847

How can I support this new partnership? In the coming weeks CAP will take Robb on a tour of community partners and resources in the Portland area. Please feel free to reach out to Robb directly if you'd like to arrange a more in-depth Meet & Greet or agency tour.

Our House has a new phone number 971 346- 3840

HIV Day Center Says Farewell to:

Ravenmajel Playfaire Program Assistant. That position will be hired.

HIV Day Center Says Welcomes:

Marcus Coleman as a part-time Food Services Assistant to help Jose in the kitchen.

Partnership Project is hiring

An additional Medical Navigator to support medical engagement for patients who seek care at other Partnership Project affiliated health systems and clinics besides OHSU. Our current Partnership Project Medical Navigator who works specifically with OHSU patients is Corrie Halladay. [Click here to apply](#) For questions about the position please contact lagermes@ohsu.edu

Send your staffing and program updates to lagermes@ohsu.edu

On World AIDS Day, 12/1 6:30 p.m. Partnership Project Presents



Clinton Street Theater-2522 SE Clinton St

Film is free [register here for a seat](#)

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[OHSU/ Partnership Project](#).

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The editor is Julia Lager-Mesulam.

Comments/questions about this publication should be directed to:

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This issue, and issues from January 2011 on, can be found electronically [here](#)