

Social Needs Assistance Guidelines

For Members

Last updated: December 2025



Table of Contents

CareOregon Social Needs Assistance Guidelines	1
Health Related Social Needs (HRSN).....	1
HRSN Housing Support.....	1
Eligibility	1
Qualifying medical conditions.....	1
Qualifying life situations	1
Available items and services.....	2
HRSN Climate Devices	4
Eligibility	4
Qualifying medical conditions.....	4
Qualifying life situations	4
Available items.....	5
HRSN Nutrition Support	5
Eligibility	5
Qualifying medical conditions.....	5
Qualifying life situations	6
Available services	6
Flexible Services	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Flexible Services Housing Support.....	7
Eligibility	7
Qualifying medical conditions.....	7
Available items and services.....	7
Flexible Services Climate Devices	9
Eligibility	9
Qualifying medical conditions.....	9
Available items.....	9
Flexible Services Nutrition Support.....	10
Eligibility	10
Qualifying medical conditions.....	10
Available services	10
Flexible Services Other Social Supports.....	10
Eligibility	10
Available items and services.....	11
Exclusions.....	12

CareOregon Social Needs Assistance Guidelines

Social needs include things like having enough food, transportation, a stable place to live, education, friends to support you, and access to water and electricity. When you don't have enough of these things, it can harm both your body and mind. When you do have what you need, it can help you stay healthy and feel better overall. This guide was created to help you understand what is needed to get help.

Health Related Social Needs (HRSN)

HRSN Housing Support

Eligibility

To be eligible for HRSN housing support, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- You must have a current medical condition and life situation such as those listed below

Qualifying medical conditions

- Adults aged 65 and older
- Children under age 6
- Complex behavioral health problems
- Complex physical health or dental health problems
- Going from Medicaid-only benefits to **qualifying for both Medicaid and Medicare**
- Members who are experiencing or **have experienced interpersonal violence (IPV)**. This includes domestic violence (DV), sexual violence (SV), or psychological violence
- Members that are **pregnant or within 12 months postpartum**
- Members with an **intellectual or developmental disability**
- Members who **need assistance with one or more activities of daily living**
- Members who have repeatedly used the **emergency department or crisis services**

Qualifying life situations

- **For rent/utility costs, utility arrears or set up, and storage fees:**
 - Members who:
 - Have a household income that is 30% or less of the average yearly income where they live **AND** lack supporting resources to prevent homelessness
 - Have rental housing
 - Need support staying housed
 - Have a lease or written rental agreement

- **For home changes:**
 - Members who:
 - Leave incarceration
 - Leave a mental health or substance use recovery facility
 - Have spent time in the Oregon child welfare system (foster care) now or in the past
 - Go from Medicaid-only benefits to qualifying for both Medicaid and Medicare
 - Have a household income that is 30% or less of the average yearly income where they live AND lack supporting resources to prevent homelessness
 - Are enrolled as a Young Adult with Special Healthcare Needs (YSHCN)
- **For hotel/motel stays:**
 - Members who:
 - Have a household income that is 30% or less of the average yearly income where they live AND lack supporting resources to prevent homelessness
 - Are receiving a home change
 - Need a place to stay during the work on the HRSN home change

Available items and services

Services and items	Limitations	Exclusions
Rent		
Payment to cover a member's cost of recurring rent or past due rent for up to six months. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent payment • Renter's insurance, if required by the lease • Utilities paid by the landlord that are not already covered by utility assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available once • Limited to current amount owed, including any back rent • The requesting member's name must be on the lease agreement • Member must be actively enrolled in OHP at the time help is given 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet fees (including emotional support animals) • Parking fees • Amenity fees • Landlord-paid taxes • Property insurance • Rent payments to roommates or other health plan members
Utilities		
Payment to cover setup or restart costs, or past-due or future-due utilities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage • Water • Sewage • Recycling • Gas • Electric • Internet • Phone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to six months of utility assistance for past due or future-due payments • Member must be getting HRSN help with rent payments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility bills not in the member's name. Member must show proof that the address for service is their address • Homeowner utility fees

Services and items	Limitations	Exclusions
Hotels/motels		
Payment to cover costs for hotel or motel stays.	Members are eligible to receive support if they cannot remain in their home during approved HRSN home changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet fees • Parking fees • Amenity fees
Home changes		
<p>Making changes to a member's home that remove health and safety risks. Also, ensuring their home fits their needs for health, safety and daily activities. Includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramps • Grip bars • Door and cabinet handles • Getting rid of pests • Deep cleaning • Installing washable curtains or synthetic window blinds to help with allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can occur as needed in member's current place of residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home changes that are the landlord's responsibility to resolve • Home changes made for design or style • Changes that add to the size of the home • General repair and upkeep required for the home
Storage fees		
Payment for safe storage of personal items to help with moving or during a time of change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to six months of current storage fees • Member must be getting the HRSN help with rent payments benefit • Available once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage fees for non-commercial storage units

HRSN Climate Devices

Eligibility

To be eligible for HRSN climate device support, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- You must have a current medical condition and life situation such as those listed below

Qualifying medical conditions

- Adults aged 65 and older
- Children under age 6
- Specific behavioral health problems
- Specific physical health or dental health problems
- Members that are **pregnant or within 12 months postpartum**
- Members with an **intellectual or developmental disability** where health need increases during climate event
- Members who **need assistance with one or more activities of daily living** where health need increases during climate event
- Members who have repeatedly used the **emergency department or crisis services** for a climate related health problem

Qualifying life situations

- Experiencing homelessness
- Leaving **incarceration**
- Leaving a **mental health or substance use** recovery facility
- In the Oregon child welfare system (**foster care**) now or in the past
- Going from Medicaid-only benefits to qualifying for both **Medicaid and Medicare**
- Having a **household income that is 30% or less** of the average yearly income where you live AND lacking resources or support to prevent homelessness
- Enrolled as a **Young Adult with Special Healthcare Needs (YSHCN)**

Available items

Item	Limitations
Air conditioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One replacement device every three years
Air filtration device	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One replacement device every three years
Heater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One replacement device every three years
Mini-refrigeration unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to medications or liquid nutrition that needs refrigeration• One replacement device every three years
Portable power supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to use with medical equipment or technology that requires electricity and necessary for communication or activities of daily living (ADL)• One replacement device every three years

HRSN Nutrition Support

Eligibility

To be eligible for HRSN nutrition support, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- You have food insecurity
- You must have a current medical condition and life situation such as those listed below

Qualifying medical conditions

- For medically tailored meals:
 - Members who have a condition that needs specific meals
- For nutrition education:
 - Adults aged 65 and older
 - Children under age 6
 - Complex behavioral health problems
 - Complex physical health or dental health problems
 - Members who are transitioning to **dual Medicaid and Medicare** status
 - Members who are experiencing or **have experienced interpersonal violence (IPV)**, including domestic violence (DV), sexual violence (SV), or psychological violence
 - Members that are **pregnant or within 12 months postpartum**
 - Members with an **intellectual or developmental disability**
 - Members who **need assistance with one or more activities of daily living**
 - Members who have repeatedly used the **emergency department or crisis services**

Qualifying life situations

- Experiencing homelessness
- Leaving incarceration
- Leaving a **mental health or substance use** recovery facility
- In the Oregon child welfare system (**foster care**) now or in the past
- Going from Medicaid-only benefits to qualifying for **Medicaid and Medicare**
- Having a **household income that is 30% or less** of the average yearly income where you live AND lacking resources or support to prevent homelessness
- Enrolled as a **Young Adult with Special Healthcare Needs (YSHCN)**

Available services

Services	Limitations
Assessment for medically tailored meals Meeting with a dietitian who can check a member's health to see if they need special meals made for their condition.	
Medically tailored meals Meals customized specifically for a member's health condition(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meals must be delivered to a member's home or wherever they live. This could include shelters that do not serve meals• A member can receive up to three meals per day for up to six months• If a member lives in a place that is required to serve them meals, they cannot get this service• Member must have a place to safely store and prepare meals
Nutrition education Any type of education that helps a member make healthy food choices and take care of their body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This service cannot be used if a member can get a similar service through their medical benefit

Flexible Services

Flexible Services are cost-effective items or services offered to members to supplement covered benefits. They are things that can improve a member's health but are not part of their health plan. Examples include some of the items in the following sections.

Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) members enrolled with CareOregon may receive up to \$1,500 of Flexible Services per calendar year.

Flexible Services Housing Support

Eligibility

To be eligible for Flexible Services housing support, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- You must have a current medical condition such as those listed below

Qualifying medical conditions

- Adults aged 65 and older
- Children under age 6
- Complex behavioral health problems
- Complex physical health or dental health problems
- Members who are transitioning to **dual Medicaid and Medicare** status
- Members who are experiencing or **have experienced interpersonal violence (IPV)**, including domestic violence (DV), sexual violence (SV), or psychological violence
- Members that are **pregnant or within 12 months postpartum**
- Members with an **intellectual or developmental disability**
- Members who **need assistance with one or more activities of daily living**
- Members who have repeatedly used the **emergency department or crisis services**

Available items and services

Services and items	Limitations	Exclusions
Rent		
Payment to cover a member's cost of recurring rent or past due rent for up to three months. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rent payment• Renter's insurance, if required by the lease• Utilities paid by the landlord that are not already covered by utility assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available once every three years• Limited to current amount owed, including any back rent• The requesting member's name must be on the lease agreement• Member must be actively enrolled in OHP at the time help is provided• Member must show ability to pay rent in the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pet fees (including emotional support animals)• Parking fees• Amenity fees• Landlord-paid taxes• Property insurance• Rent payments to roommates or other health plan members

Services and items	Limitations	Exclusions
Utilities		
Payment to cover set-up or restart costs, or past-due or future-due utilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage • Water • Sewage • Recycling • Gas • Electric • Internet • Phone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to six months of help with utility payments that are past due or will be due in the future • Available once every three years • Member must show ability to pay utilities in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility bills not in the member's name. Member must show proof that the address for service is the member's address. • Homeowner utility fees
Hotels/motels		
Payment to cover costs for hotel or motel stays.	Members are eligible to receive support in the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving the hospital with no place to live • Extreme weather event that can worsen a member's health condition • Going from homelessness to a new home within the next three months • Inability to remain in home during home changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet fees • Parking fees • Amenity fees
Home changes		
Making changes to the member's home to remove health and safety risks. Making sure the home fits their needs for health, safety, and daily activities. Includes the following services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramps • Grip bars • Door and cabinet handles • Getting rid of pests • Deep cleaning • Installing washable curtains or synthetic window blinds to help with allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can happen as needed in member's current place of residence • Request must include a detailed price estimate for the change needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home changes that are the landlord's responsibility to resolve • Home changes made for design or style • Changes that add to the size of the home • General repair and upkeep required for the home
Storage fees		
Payment for storing personal items to help with moving or during a time of change, so that a member's things can be safely kept or moved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to six months of current storage fees every three years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage fees for non-commercial storage units
Moving expenses		
Help to prepare for or support a move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available once per move 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No out of state moves

Flexible Services Climate Devices

Eligibility

To be eligible for Flexible Services climate device support, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- You must have a current medical condition such as those listed below

Qualifying medical conditions

- Adults aged 65 and older
- Children under age 6
- Specific behavioral health problems
- Specific physical health or dental health problems
- Members that are **pregnant or within 12 months postpartum**
- Members with an **intellectual or developmental disability** where health need increases during climate event
- Members who **need assistance with one or more activities of daily living** where health need increases during climate event
- Members who have repeatedly used the **emergency department or crisis services** for a climate related health problem

Available items

Item	Limitations
Air conditioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One replacement device every three years
Air filtration device	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One replacement device every three years
Heater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One replacement device every three years
Mini-refrigeration unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to medications or liquid nutrition that needs refrigeration• One replacement device every three years
Portable power supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited to use with medical equipment or technology that requires electricity and necessary for communication or activities of daily living (ADL)• One replacement device every three years

Flexible Services Nutrition Support

Eligibility

To be eligible for Flexible Services nutrition support, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- You have food insecurity
- You must have a current medical condition and life situation such as those listed below

Qualifying medical conditions

- Adults aged 65 and older
- Children under age 6
- Complex behavioral health problems
- Complex physical health or dental health problems
- Members who are transitioning to dual Medicaid and Medicare status
- Members who are experiencing or **have experienced interpersonal violence (IPV)**, including domestic violence (DV), sexual violence (SV), or psychological violence
- Members that are **pregnant or within 12 months postpartum**
- Members with an **intellectual or developmental disability**
- Members who **need assistance with one or more activities of daily living**
- Members who have repeatedly used the **emergency department or crisis services**

Available services

Services	Limitations
Food boxes Specific foods from farms and other local groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only for complex physical health or dental health problems
Nutrition education Any type of education that helps a member make healthy food choices and take care of their body.	

Flexible Services Other Social Supports

As a reminder, Flexible Services are cost-effective items or services offered to members to supplement covered benefits. They are things that can improve a member's health but are not part of their health plan. Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) members enrolled with CareOregon may receive up to \$1,500 of Flexible Services per calendar year.

Eligibility

To be eligible for other social supports, all the following must apply:

- You must be a current member
- You are not able to get the item/service through any other benefit or means
- The item or service must help with your medical condition

Available items and services

Here are some examples of common supports for social needs. This list isn't everything we can help with. If you need something for your health that isn't listed, just ask us and we'll consider your request. The conditions for funding will be different depending on the item or service you're asking for.

Services and items	Qualifying medical conditions and life situations
Sensory support items (weighted blankets, sleep aids, vouchers for yoga classes, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members struggling with autism, anxiety or depression
Vehicle repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members living in their vehicle needing minor vehicle repairs
Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members leaving domestic violence
Baby equipment (car seat or stroller)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pregnant or postpartum members
Electronic devices such as communication devices or tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children struggling with autism, anxiety, depression
Educational materials or books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complex physical health conditions
Exercise equipment and gym memberships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complex physical health conditions
Camp enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children with autism or depression, etc.
Oral hygiene products (toothbrushes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members with treatment goals to prevent oral health/dental issues

Exclusions

The following supports and services are NOT currently covered:

- Requests to be paid back for items or services that are not covered
- Items and services that are available under your health plan benefits.
- Credit card bills or loan payments
- Mortgage payments
- Fees (pet fees, legal fees, etc.)
- Payment for caregivers or other hired long term supports
- Public transit passes or gas cards
- Payment for non-members, such as funding a non-member's utilities or getting an air conditioner for someone that is not living at your residence
- Payment related to the building of new physical structures
- General nutritional supplements
- Purchase of textbooks
- Purchase of a home or vehicle
- Car payments or major vehicle repairs
- Purchase of household decor
- Vacations or other travel
- Household appliances that are not covered under the climate devices benefit
- Any items or services that have unproven benefits
- Dental services performed by a dental provider (crowns, implants, etc.)

You can get these materials in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. You can also ask for an interpreter.

This help is free. Call 800-224-4840 or TTY 711.

We accept relay calls.

You can get help from a certified and qualified health care interpreter.

OHP-25-6430