

Spousal Pay



What is Spousal Pay?

Spousal Pay is a Medicaid program administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services. Spousal Pay pays your spouse for providing your long-term services in your home. You and your spouse must be legally married. Your spouse must provide the majority of hours of your services in a month.

Who is eligible?

You must:

- Be eligible for Medicaid long-term services in your home;
- Require full assistance in four out of six of the activities of daily living (see list in next column);
- Require nursing facility services in the absence of in-home services; and
- Have a medically diagnosed, progressive, debilitating condition or have a spinal cord injury or similar disability with permanent impairment.

In addition, your spouse must:

- Meet all DHS qualifications for enrollment as a Homecare Worker, and
- Pass a criminal history check.

What does a spousal pay provider do?

The spouse who provides in-home services is the **spousal pay provider**. The **spousal pay provider** must have the necessary health and ability to provide personal care, including lifting, carrying, bending, reaching, and manual dexterity (such as fastening clothing).

The **spousal pay provider** provides the following activities of daily living, if needed:

- Bathing/personal hygiene;
- Dressing/grooming;
- Mobility, ambulation and transferring;
- Feeding and assistance with eating;
- Elimination assistance: toileting, bowel and bladder; and
- Cognition, including assistance with any confusion or behaviors.

The **spousal pay provider** also provides instrumental activities of daily living for his or her spouse, including housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping, transportation, and medication and oxygen management.

What benefits does a spousal pay provider receive?

Spousal pay providers are live-in Homecare Workers covered by a union contract with SEIU Local 503, OPEU. As a Homecare Worker, your spouse receives certain benefits. These benefits can change based on what is negotiated in the most recent union contract.

All Homecare Workers are eligible for the following benefits, regardless of how many hours they work:

- Workers' compensation;
- Income tax withholding;
- Unemployment insurance;
- FICA/Medicare tax withholding; and
- Direct deposit of paychecks – voluntary electronic deposit.

Depending on the number of authorized service hours your spouse provides you, your spouse may also be able to receive health insurance and paid leave. Your spouse must work enough hours to be eligible and must enroll through the **Homecare Union Benefits Board (HUBB)**.

SPOUSAL PAY program



How to apply

To apply for the Spousal Pay Program, contact the office serving seniors and people with disabilities in your area. To find your local office on the Internet go to:

www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/home.htm

Or call:

1-800-282-8096



This document can be provided upon request in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities. Other formats may include (but are not limited to) large print, Braille, audio recordings, Web-based communications and other electronic formats.

E-mail dhs.forms@state.or.us, call 503-378-3486 (voice) or 503-378-3523 (TTY), or fax 503-373-7690 to arrange for the alternative format that will work best for you.

Oregon Department of Human Services
Seniors and People with Disabilities
500 Summer Street NE E10
Salem OR 97301-1073

