Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

DATE

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure,

I am writing to express [Organization Name’s] support of the 1115(a) Waiver Renewal application submitted in February by the Oregon Health Authority.

Our organization supports promoting access to stable, affordable housing, which is a key determinant in health for Oregonians. For many years, Oregon has been a leader in Medicaid reform with our coordinated care model, which integrates all aspects of health care, focusing on factors outside the traditional health care system that affect health. Our state is asking to deepen that model and begin the necessary transition to a focus on health equity, with particular attention to housing.

In particular, [Organization Name] supports the waiver renewal application’s development of social determinant of health transition services to address barriers people face when accessing stable housing, among other health factors. The renewal contemplates housing services and supports which could include:

* Rental assistance or temporary housing for up to 12 months, including rental payments, deposits, past rent, motels;
* Home and community-based services such as ramps, handrails, utility assistance, environmental remediation;
* Pre-tenancy and tenancy support services such as employment services, eviction prevention, housing application, moving support; and
* Housing-focused navigation and/or case manager supports such as exploring traditional health worker integration.

Many of these proposed services fall under the “**Improving health outcomes by streamlining life and coverage transitions**” policies outlined by Oregon. The vision states that “if Oregon is able to provide specific benefit packages to members in transition, we can ensure they stay covered, have important social determinants of health needs met and maintain access to care and medicine.”

As advocates for housing, [Organization Name] supports this vision, which places stable, affordable housing at the center of a health system for people in Oregon.

Finally, we applaud the commitment to further adjusting Oregon’s Medicaid system to focus on the deep inequities experienced by communities of color and other oppressed communities in our state.

We believe that the proposed 1115 waiver is a significant step forward for people in Oregon and ask for approval.

Sincerely,

Signature, title, Org Name