

NEWS RELEASE



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Headline: Applications for Oregon Health Plan mailed to low-income Oregonians

The first drawing from the Oregon Health Plan reservation list has been completed, resulting in 2,000 Oregonians receiving plan application packets this week. The packet mailing is part of the ongoing process to bring 35,000 adults into the Oregon Health Plan.

“Once a person’s name is drawn they can apply for coverage and, if they are eligible, they will be enrolled into the Oregon Health Plan,” says Judy Mohr Peterson, director of the Division of Medical Assistance Programs. “This coverage will mean they can receive the basic medical care and treatments that people who have coverage take for granted.”

Due to a provider tax passed in the 2009 Oregon Legislature, there is funding for 35,000 low-income Oregon adults. Because there are an estimated 140,000 Oregonians who would qualify for OHP based on income, the state has created a reservation list and will hold monthly drawings from the list.

“I am very encouraged that we are able to provide health care coverage to more Oregonians,” says Mohr Peterson. “We are working with health care providers in local communities throughout the state to help spread the word about the available health care coverage. Our goal is to reach as many uninsured Oregonians as possible so everyone has an equal chance to apply for coverage.”

The next drawing will be March 1. To be included in it, names must be received before that date. Monthly drawings and application mailings will be held until OHP Standard projected capacity is reached.

To be added to the reservation list, low-income Oregonians should call 1-800-699-9075 or 711 for TTY service. Oregonians can also register on the Web site at www.ohplist.oregon.gov. Reservation request forms are also available at local Department of Human Services offices, local county health departments, and most hospitals and health care clinics.

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Eligibility is based on strict income limits of less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, which is based on the number of people in a household. For example, the limit is \$903 for an individual or \$1,526 for a family of three.

OHP Standard covers physician services, prescription drugs, mental health and chemical dependency treatment, emergency medical services and limited dental, hospital and vision services. Monthly premiums for adults range from free to \$20, depending on income and household size.

Mohr Peterson points out families with children should also be aware of the Healthy Kids plan.

Children do not have to wait on a reservation list, thanks to the Oregon Healthy Kids plan. Children and teens up to age 19 may qualify today. Call 1-877-314-5678 or visit the Healthy Kids Web site at www.oregonhealthykids.gov.

“If you have kids, don’t wait to call. Your children may be eligible for free or affordable health care today,” says Mohr Peterson.

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