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### **3,000 Oregon Health Plan applications mailed today; nearly 3,100 eligible so far**

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State officials are mailing applications for Oregon Health Plan coverage today to 3,000 more adults whose names were randomly drawn from the reservation list on which 91,000-plus names were placed last winter.

Applications for the Standard benefit plan, which covers uninsured low-income adults who do not qualify for traditional Medicaid, are being mailed to residents of all 36 counties.

"This mailing brings to 15,000 the number of OHP-Standard applications mailed since March," said Jim Edge, state Medicaid director in the Oregon Department of Human Services. "As a result of people returning their OHP-Standard applications, we have so far enrolled 3,084 people for medical coverage who did not have it before."

Edge said DHS will continue to enroll people until the number covered reaches a monthly average of 24,000 adults for the two-year budget period that ends June 30, 2009. There are now approximately 20,000 people in Standard, part of the larger state Medicaid program that covers approximately 425,000 people.

So far, more than 8,200 OHP-Standard applications have been submitted to the Oregon Health Plan processing center in Salem, where most are received. When applicants are found ineligible, Edge said, it is usually because their income is too high or they fail to furnish required income or citizenship documentation.

To be eligible, an applicant must show three months' consecutive income averaging less than the federal poverty level (for example, \$867 monthly for an individual or \$1,467 monthly for a household of three). To qualify, applicants also must provide

income documentation and proof of citizenship and identity. State health plan officials will look up birth certificates for people born in Oregon and hold incomplete applications for people who are making a good-faith effort to obtain documents. Currently, more than 1,100 OHP-Standard applications are awaiting needed documentation.

The deadline for submitting applications mailed in July will be Aug. 22. Applicants with questions may call 1-800-699-9075. The reservation list from which a computer randomly draws names was open for five weeks in January and February, when the state invited uninsured low-income Oregon residents to put their names on the list.

The 10 counties whose residents will receive the largest numbers of OHP-Standard applications this week are Multnomah (703), Lane (321), Marion (242), Washington (210), Clackamas (195), Jackson (176), Douglas (141), Josephine (103), Deschutes (87) and Linn (79). Rural Gilliam, Grant, Lake, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa and Wheeler counties will each receive fewer than 10.

OHP-Standard covers physician visits, prescription drugs, mental health and chemical dependency services, emergency medical treatment and limited dental, hospital and vision services. OHP-Standard enrollees pay monthly premiums ranging from nothing to \$20, depending on household income and size.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Health Plan's Plus benefit package is always open for low-income people who are aged, blind, disabled, pregnant, younger than 19 or who qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Applications for OHP-Plus are available by calling 1-800-359-9517 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Pacific time.

To expand health coverage to more Oregonians, Governor Ted Kulongoski last year named a seven-member board to make recommendations to be considered by the 2009 Oregon Legislature, which convenes Jan. 12. The panel, known as the Oregon Health Fund Board, has received committee reports and is meeting monthly to review them before holding a September public hearing and making final recommendations to the Governor and legislative leaders. The board's next meeting will be July 24 in Portland.

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