

Suggested Newsletter text

New OHP Standard reservation list is open for low-income adults

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) provides health care coverage for low-income Oregonians through programs administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Currently, more than 450,000 people receive health care coverage through the Oregon Health Plan each month. OHP clients are assigned to a benefit package based on several eligibility factors. OHP Standard is one of the benefit packages for low-income adults.

OHP Standard provides coverage for medical services similar to private insurance. Some clients with OHP Standard receive coverage at no cost while those with higher incomes must pay small monthly premiums.

Previously closed to new enrollment due to budget restrictions, the Oregon legislature approved the expansion of OHP Standard to cover more people through a tax paid by Oregon hospitals and matching federal dollars. Unfortunately, there is still not enough money to cover all the people who need health care coverage and qualify for OHP Standard. Therefore, DHS is using a reservation list for people who are interested in applying for OHP Standard.

People interested in applying for OHP Standard benefits must place their names on the OHP Standard reservation list, which opened November 1, 2009.

DHS will randomly select names from the list on a regular basis and mail OHP Standard applications to those people. The number of names selected will depend on the amount of funding available for OHP Standard.

Who qualifies for OHP Standard?

People who qualify for OHP Standard are Oregon residents with limited income who are:

- Ages 19 through 64;
- Not pregnant; and
- Not receiving Medicare.

Getting on the reservation list is easy

Individuals can put their own names on the list or have someone do it for them, using one of the following methods:

- Sign up online at www.oregon.gov/DHS/open/;
- Mail or fax a request to DHS. Forms are available at all DHS/AAA offices, county health departments and most hospitals and clinics; or
- Call 1-800-699-9075, or 711 (TTY) Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Frequently asked questions about the OHP Standard reservation list

Q. What is OHP Standard?

A. The Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Standard program provides free or low-cost health coverage to uninsured Oregon residents who:

- Are ages 19 through 64;
- Are not pregnant;
- Have limited income, and;
- Do not have Medicare.

The OHP Standard program is paid for by a hospital tax and matching federal dollars.

Q. What is the OHP Standard reservation list?

A. People interested in applying for OHP Standard benefits must first place their names on the reservation list. At regular intervals, DHS will randomly draw names from the list and mail OHP Standard applications to those people whose names are drawn.

Q. Why is a reservation list necessary?

A. Unfortunately, there is not enough funding to cover all the people who need health care coverage and meet the qualifications for OHP Standard. Therefore, the department uses this list to give everyone who wants to enroll in OHP Standard an equal opportunity to get on the reservation list and have their name randomly drawn from the list to receive an OHP application.

Q. How will I know if DHS has received my request to be on the OHP Standard reservation list?

A. DHS will mail you a letter with a reservation number. Remember, this only means that you are on the list, it does not guarantee you will receive an OHP Standard application. Also remember, your reservation number does not identify your place on the list. Names will be drawn from the reservation list at random.

Q. How often will names be drawn and applications mailed out?

A. DHS will randomly draw names and mail applications, on a regular basis, until OHP Standard projected capacity is reached.

Q. What if I send in an OHP application without being on the OHP Standard reservation list?

A. Staff will process your application for eligibility for other programs, *but not for OHP Standard*.

Q. What about people who signed up for the previous (2008) reservation list?

A. The department sent a letter to those people who were on the original reservation list and haven't had their names drawn. The letter instructed them to respond if they wanted to be on the 2009 reservation list.
