

Family Health Insurance Assistance Program

CONNECTIONS

Summer 2008

FHIAP budget update

Contact us

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As you may know, a change in federal funding forced FHIAP to end subsidies to about 4,200 adult members. The vast majority of adults (90 percent) who lost FHIAP subsidies moved to Oregon Health Plan's Standard benefit package in June.

Some of you may be in that group but still have children in FHIAP. You will continue to receive this newsletter.

FHIAP still has more than 9,500 members. While the program continues, we aren't yet accepting new members so that we can stay within our 2007-09 budget.

We now have more than 40,000 names on a waiting list for an application. However, if you have friends or family who are uninsured, we encourage them to add their names. This is because we send applications in the order people put their names on the list.

We don't know for sure when we will have openings. The 2009 Legislature will determine our next budget, which starts in

July 2009. Legislators also will decide how to pay for Oregon Health Plan's Standard program (for lower-income adults). Because of budget limits, Standard serves only a portion of those who qualify.

Even though a group is studying changes in Oregon's health care system (see **Oregon Health Fund Board** story), no one believes all the problems will be solved immediately.

Governor Ted Kulongoski recently listed his top priorities for the 2009 Legislature. They are:

- Get more children insured
- Get more low-income adults insured through Oregon Health Plan's Standard benefit package

Both will require additional money. The governor has pointed out that the state won't succeed in expanding coverage to more people if it doesn't control costs at the same time. ■

Tips: Re-applying to FHIAP

Some reminders:

Redetermination: This is what we call the annual process of re-applying to stay in the program.

Income proof: Most people need to send three months worth of proof of income. What months? The three months prior to the month you sign the application. If you sign your application in August, we need to see proof from May, June and July. If you are

self-employed and have questions, call FHIAP and ask for our self-employment specialist. Call 1-888-564-9669. The number is toll-free in Oregon.

Citizenship proof: If you already sent documents to prove citizenship, you do not need to do this again. The only time you have to prove citizenship is if you have a new family member. In other words, proving citizenship is a one-time requirement. ■

Oregon Health Fund Board

This seven-member board will soon issue its proposal for health care reform. The group was established by the 2007 Legislature to propose ways to insure more people, control costs and improve the quality of Oregon's health-care system.

In addition to looking for a mix of taxes to increase the number of low-income adults and children who are insured, the board said Oregon must overhaul "the way we pay for and deliver health care."

Meanwhile, it has scheduled meetings in September for those who want to comment on its proposal. Visit the board's Web site: <http://healthfundboard.oregon.gov>. All meetings are from 6:30-9 p.m.

- Portland: Sept. 8, Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd.
- Hillsboro: Sept. 9, City of Hillsboro Civic Auditorium, 150 E. Main St.
- Bend: Sept. 9, Central Oregon Community College, Hitchcock Auditorium, 2600 NW College Way
- Medford: Sept. 10, Medford City Council Chambers, 411 West 8th St., Ste. 312
- Gresham: Sept. 11, Mt. Hood Community College, Visual Arts Theatre, 26000 SE Stark St.
- Eugene: Sept. 11, Lane Community College, 4000 East 30th Ave., Bldg. 19, Room 202
- Salem: Sept. 15, First Congregational Church, 700 Marion St. NE
- LaGrande: Sept. 16, First Presbyterian Church, 1308 Washington Ave.
- Corvallis: Sept. 17, Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, 333 NW 35th St.
- Newport: Sept. 18, Atonement Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Coast Highway ■

Report these changes to FHIAP

- Name and address
- Job
- You can now get insurance through work
- Family member gets Oregon Health Plan
- Your family members change (divorce, birth, marriage)
- Your employer's health insurance costs go up ■

Return Service Requested

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