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## **Local communities forming new health care partnerships across the state**

### ***Oregon Health Authority receives letters of intent from potential Coordinated Care Organizations***

Based on non-binding letters of intent filed Tuesday from potential Coordinated Care Organizations, there is broad support for a new and better model of care within the state.

The Oregon Health Authority received more than 50 letters of intent from organizations interested in applying to become Coordinated Care Organizations. Based on the letters, there is support for forming CCOs in every county in Oregon. The letters are required for any entity to be eligible to apply to be a CCO.

“I am pleased to see this unprecedented level of collaboration among community partners to build a more coordinated care system for the members of the Oregon Health Plan,” said Governor John Kitzhaber. “This is an important milestone as we work toward better health, better care and lower costs.”

The letters of intent can be viewed at [cco.health.oregon.gov](http://cco.health.oregon.gov).

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The next step for potential Coordinated Care Organizations is to submit the first part of their application by April 30 and the second by May 14. As part of their application, potential CCOs must demonstrate how they will:

- Coordinate the delivery of physical health care, mental health and chemical dependency services, and oral health care;
- Establish alternate ways of paying providers to encourage them to focus on prevention and other activities that improve health in a community;
- Engage community members and health care providers in improving the health of the community and addressing regional, cultural, socioeconomic and racial disparities in health care that exist among the OHP clients/CCO members and in the CCO's community;
- Progress from the baseline requirements for CCOs to the full requirements expected at maturity;
- Manage financial risk, establish financial reserves and meet minimum financial requirements; and,
- Operate within a fixed global budget.

A full list of criteria and timelines can be found at [cco.health.oregon.gov](http://cco.health.oregon.gov). The first CCOs will be approved by the end of June and operating by August.

Under CCOs, the Oregon Health Plan's medical benefits will not change. Coordinated Care Organizations are a network of all types of health care providers who have agreed to work together in a more integrated way for people in their local communities who receive those benefits.

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A third-party analysis found that by implementing CCOs, Oregon could save a significant portion of projected Medicaid costs. Savings in state and federal dollars would be more than \$1 billion within three years and more than \$3.1 billion over the next five years.

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“Like all states, Oregon is facing unsustainable health care costs in a health care system with too much waste and inefficiency from fragmented care,” said Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of the Oregon Health Authority. “Coordinated Care Organizations are the means to both improve care and lower costs and in Oregon there is clearly strong support to do both.”

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