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## **‘Fast-track’ enrollment for the Oregon Health Plan**

***About 260,000 adult Oregonians have already been screened for OHP and do not have to apply through Cover Oregon***

Oregon will be opening the Oregon Health Plan to more adults as allowed by federal health reform. People can begin enrolling next week for coverage to start January 1, 2014.

Cover Oregon is the one-stop shop for health coverage in Oregon, including those enrolling in the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Fast-track enrollment is available to resident Oregonians who meet qualifications for OHP **and** have already qualified for food benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or health care benefits for children through Healthy Kids/OHP.

State officials are urging fast-track-eligible Oregonians to return their forms and get enrolled in health care coverage. To help, starting this week the Oregon Health Authority will begin mailing “fast-track” enrollment forms to people who are qualified. About 260,000 total packets will be mailed.

“If you are a pre-screened Oregon resident, you do not have to go through the application process at Cover Oregon,” says Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of the Oregon Health Authority. “Just fill out the simple form and return it to us, and you will be signed up for health care coverage that starts January 1, 2014.”

(more)

## **Income limits**

Like other benefit services, eligibility for the adult Oregon Health Plan is based on the Federal Poverty Level. For the 2014 benefits, the income limit is 138 percent of the FPL. That's about \$1,317 per month – \$15,800 per year – for an individual. The limit increases depending on the number of people in a family. For example, it's \$1,784 per month – or \$21,408 per year – for a family of two.

Some adults who receive SNAP or whose children are enrolled in Healthy Kids will not qualify for the Oregon Health Plan. They will not receive a letter and instead should go to Cover Oregon to learn what financial assistance is available to them and their families to purchase health care coverage.

“Opening health care coverage to more adults will have a profound effect on people’s lives and their communities. Research shows that with coverage people receive the care that they need, the treatment that they need, and medical debt is decreased,” says Dr. Goldberg.

New Oregon Health Plan members will be enrolled in a local coordinated care organization made up of providers of physical care, mental care and other services. Coordinated care organizations are part of Oregon’s movement to build a system that delivers better health and better care and a lower cost. Under Oregon’s agreement with the federal government, health care costs will be lowered by 2 percentage points per capita in the 2013-2015 budget.

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