



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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June 22, 2026

Dr. Victoria Travis
National Program Director
MED-Project USA
3439 NE Sandy Blvd
Unit 3620
Portland, OR 97232
oregon@med-project.org

Re: Updated response to MED-Project USA's Revised 2025-2027 Additional Services
Proposal dated April 24, 2026

Dear Dr. Travis,

Thank you for submitting MED-Project USA's (MED-Project's) Revised Additional Services Proposal dated April 24, 2026 (Proposal). With this Proposal, MED-Project seeks DEQ approval under Oregon Revised Statute 459A.218(3) to provide drug take-back collection services and events in lieu of drop-off sites, because MED-Project is unable to establish and maintain a sufficient number of drop-off sites to meet the requirements of MED-Project's DEQ-approved Drug Take-Back Program Plan dated January 12, 2026 and amended on March 4, 2026 and revised on April 24, 2026.

In reviewing the Proposal, DEQ considered whether MED-Project demonstrated the elements set forth in Oregon Administrative Rules 340-098-0350 for DEQ's consideration of such variance requests. These elements are:

- (1) Good faith efforts to solicit and enter into agreements with potential authorized collectors in the affected county or population center for which a waiver or DEQ approval is sought, such as through outreach to identify, contact and engage with potential authorized collectors;
- (2) Why a drop-off site cannot be established or maintained in the affected county or population center, including an explanation of any conditions for participation on which the program operator or any potential authorized collector could not agree;
- (3) How the proposed services and, as applicable, collection events will provide reasonably convenient and equitable access to all residents in the affected county or population center, and engagement with minority, lower-income, rural and other historically underserved communities to help ensure this;

(4) Concurrence by the appropriate local governments in the affected population center or county with the proposed services and, as applicable, collection events, or an explanation of why the program operator could not obtain such concurrence despite good faith efforts;

(5) Commitment to solicit potential authorized collectors for the affected county or population center on at least an annual basis.

On April 3, 2026, DEQ met with MED-Project to discuss certain clarifications required for approval and the timing of the Variance Request for the Program years beginning January 12, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. DEQ appreciated the discussion on how to update the Variance Request to:

1. Clarify that the Variance Request is made within the context in MED-Project's approved updated plan and does not override commitments in the updated plan, including commitments made on pages 15 and 16 of the updated plan to (a) maintain at least 200 drop-off sites while continuing to work towards the number of drop-off sites required by ORS 459A.209(2)(i) and (b) annually assess collection services in each county against the Potential SCR Drop-Off Site Collection Weight and adjust services in each county as appropriate;
2. Extend the period of the variance request to cover June 30, 2027; and
3. Make changes to Table 2 and the description of the statutory convenience standard to clarify the request.

Based on the updated Proposal incorporating these changes, DEQ approves the proposed alternative services and events described in the Proposal for the program year beginning July 1, 2025.

If you have questions about this letter or the terms of the approval, please contact me at (503) 504-7906 or cheryl.grabham@deq.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,


Cheryl Grabham (Jun 22, 2026 13:16:46 PDT)

Cheryl Grabham
Program Manager
Materials Management Program