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State accepting applications for Coordinated Care Organizations

The Oregon Health Authority has opened the application process for Coordinated Care Organizations for the Oregon Health Plan. These newly created entities will form the heart of health care transformation as passed by Governor Kitzhaber with strong bi-partisan support from the Legislature.

Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are local health entities that will deliver health care and coverage for people served by the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). They will replace today's system of fragmented physical, behavioral and other types of care that makes things more difficult for patients and providers and more expensive for the state. CCOs will focus on prevention, chronic illness management, and patient-centered care.

Interested potential CCOs can download the Request for Applications for instructions and deadlines for applying for certification through the Oregon Health Authority. All applications will be accepted electronically. This is the first of four application periods in 2012. Any entity interested in applying to become a CCO during this or subsequent periods should file a non-binding Letter of Intent by April 2, 2012.

The first Coordinated Care Organizations are expected to launch by August 2012.

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

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The application website is: <https://cco.health.oregon.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>. The Request for Application requires each CCO applicant to hold a public information session in their local community. Additionally, all non-binding Letters of Intent and Technical Applications of potential CCOs will be posted online at www.health.oregon.gov after they have been processed.

“Oregon is moving forward to fulfill our vision of better health, better care and lower costs,” said Bruce Goldberg, M.D., director of the Oregon Health Authority.

Interested potential CCOs that have questions about the application process should contact the OHA Office of Contracts and Procurement at RFA.FormalQuestions@state.or.us.