Agent Newsletter

Agent Storefront Grants—application period extended

The Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) has extended the deadline for proposals for its agent storefront program. Proposals are now due by June 15, 2016 at 11:59 p.m.

The agent storefront program provides promotion, funding, and support for qualified, residential agents and agent organizations with the goal of helping educate and enroll Oregonians in Oregon's health insurance marketplace. This year, DCBS is offering more opportunities to participate than last year, increasing the number of grants available and allowing greater flexibility in how the awarded funds may be used.

Proposals are due Thursday, June 15, 2016 by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time. The request for grant proposals (RFGP) and supporting documents can be found at http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/agent-resources.html. Please contact Margarita Nunez, Procurement Specialist, at (503) 947-7222 or margarita.f.nunez@oregon.gov if you have any questions about this opportunity.

HIV/AIDS and Health Insurance Coverage Informational Session

When: Tues, June 28th, 2016, Noon to 2pm

Where: Lincoln Building - 421 SW Oak Street, Pine Room, Portland, OR. 97204

Who: Any Insurance Agents or Community Partners who are interested in increasing their knowledge on the subject of HIV/AIDS and how to best support consumers who may be living with the virus to get enrolled in health insurance coverage.

How: Please RSVP to Rob Smith, Oregon Marketplace Community Partner & Tribal Liaison by emailing robert.d.smith@oregon.gov

Coffee and light snacks will be provided, but please feel free to bring food if you’d like. This particular training will be facilitated by Cascade AIDS Project.

Updates to OregonHealthCare.gov
be updated to match the new style that the state has adopted for Oregon.gov. Several other agencies have already switched to the new design, including the Department of Human Services. This new design will make the website more mobile-friendly and screen reader compatible.

The state also plans to launch a new tool on the website for consumers to find insurance agents and community partners. Unlike the current tool, the new tool will allow users to search for just community partners or just insurance agents. It will also allow users to search using a full address instead of just by zip code.

If anyone has any questions about these updates, please contact Joel Metlen, Communications and Legislative Manager for the Marketplace, at 503-569-8171 or joel.c.metlen@oregon.gov.

HealthCare.gov Special Enrollment Period for Those Losing OHP Coverage

People whose OHP coverage will be ending within 60 days can apply for health insurance through HealthCare.gov online or by phone, even if they have not yet received their OHP termination notice. It is important that they report that they will be losing coverage within 60 days and provide their OHP coverage end date when applying. This will trigger their special enrollment period. When HealthCare.gov determines their eligibility, the website will advise them whether they will need to provide verification documents within 60 days.

OHP Renewals

Recently, some consumers have tried submitting their OHP renewal applications by email. Please note that renewals cannot be accepted by email. Consumers need to submit their application online at OregonHealthCare.gov or print out an application and either mail or fax it to OHP Customer Service, P.O. Box 14015, Salem, OR 97309-5032, Fax: 503-378-5628.

Spring 2016 Periodic Data Matching for HealthCare.gov

Consumers who are enrolled in coverage through Medicaid or CHIP that qualifies as minimum essential coverage (MEC) are ineligible for advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) for themselves, and for income-based cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) to help pay for the cost of their Marketplace coverage.

HealthCare.gov has conducted a data match with state Medicaid and CHIP agencies to determine whether consumers who are enrolled in Marketplace coverage with APTC or CSRs (APTC/CSRs) are also enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. Consumers identified through this process will be sent notices from the Marketplace requesting that they act immediately to end Marketplace coverage with APTC/CSRs while they are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage.

There are two ways consumers can do this:

1. Visit www.HealthCare.gov/medicaid-chip/cancelling-marketplace-plan/ and follow the instructions for each person with Medicaid or CHIP (The link also includes instructions on how to keep their Marketplace plan without premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.); or

2. Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325).
The Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace Advisory Committee provides guidance and feedback to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services about issues affecting Oregon’s health insurance marketplace such as outreach, customer feedback, and insurance plan affordability.

The committee will meet on June 9, 2016 in Eugene. Topics will include a discussion about the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) and an update on the progress of the COFA premium assistance program. For information about the committee and to view meeting materials, visit [http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/him-committee.html](http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/him-committee.html)

**COFA Premium Assistance Program**

The COFA premium assistance program will provide financial assistance to low-income citizens of the island nations in the Compact of Free Association (COFA) who are residing in Oregon to purchase health insurance through the Marketplace and to pay out-of-pocket costs associated with the coverage.

DCBS has convened an advisory committee to advise the department in the development, implementation, and operation of the program. In May, the committee reviewed a high level plan for outreach and education for the program and came to consensus on how to handle premium payments. The committee’s next meeting will be on June 29, 2016. The meeting will serve as a rulemaking hearing for the program’s proposed administrative rules.

On May 20, 2016, DCBS released an RFGP for a community partner to perform outreach and education for the program. The grantee will conduct multifaceted and multicultural outreach activities that will inform local COFA communities of their health coverage options and enroll them in a Program plan that best fits their needs. Outreach activities will include, but are not limited to, community meetings, enrollment events, email outreach, phone calls and social media outreach. Proposals were due June 10, 2016, and DCBS expects to complete the evaluation and selection process in July.

DCBS also plans to use “program ambassadors” to help spread awareness about the program. Program ambassadors will be grassroots volunteers who are active and influential COFA community members.

For more information on the COFA program and, please visit [http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/cofa-pap-committee.html](http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/cofa-pap-committee.html).