

Nov. 29, 2007

# FHIAP No Longer Accepting Applications

Because of new federal fund limitations, FHIAP is no longer able to accept *individual OR group* applications.

Additionally, group and individual applications that FHIAP has already received but have not reviewed or are in the process of reviewing will *not* be completed. We will record citizenship documents and return them promptly. Once they are able to reapply, we will not ask them to resubmit these documents.

These people will be put back on a reservation list in the order we received their initial application request. We will notify them of this action by letter.

## Why This is Happening

Over the past 5 years the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has allowed FHIAP to use State Children's Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) matching funds for our adult population. Our new, three-year agreement with the federal government started Nov. 1. As part of the agreement discussions, federal officials notified us on October 20th that we can no longer use SCHIP funds for adults. Regrettably a significant amount of our budget comes from these matching SCHIP funds.

However, CMS will allow us to use Medicaid matching funds for our FHIAP adult population. Losing the ability to use SCHIP funds for adults means that there is a significant reduction in the amount of funds available for our adult population. The shift to Medicaid funding will create a significant budget shortfall that causes us to stop new enrollment into FHIAP.

Lacking money to make up the shortfall and after negotiating with federal officials and conferring with state officials over the past 30 days, we must now take immediate action to minimize the number of current FHIAP members this affects.

## Questions

**As most of you know, we have worked aggressively, with your help, to link uninsured Oregonians with subsidies that allow them to afford high-quality health insurance and access to health care.**

We are deeply saddened by the action we must take to remain in budget compliance. While the use of federal funds has been discussed since the program's inception in the late 1990s, the federal policy decision to immediately restrict use of SCHIP match to children only (without a phase-out period for existing state programs that include adults) was unexpected.

We don't anticipate FHIAP openings through at least the end of this state budget cycle in

mid-2009. We will notify you by e-mail of any further developments.

## **Other Resources for your clients**

- Some clients, especially those with children, may qualify for Oregon Health Plan. Have them call OHP at 1-800-359-9517 for more information.
- There are safety net clinics throughout Oregon. Oregon Safenet helps Oregonians find clinics near them. The Safenet number is: 1-800-723-3638. We also provide links to *Other health resources* at: [www.fhiap.oregon.gov](http://www.fhiap.oregon.gov)  
<<http://www.fhiap.oregon.gov>>

Meanwhile, please know that you may call either of us directly with additional questions. We greatly appreciate your commitment to our program and uninsured Oregonians.

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