

Oregon Healthy Kids

Oregon's Healthy Kids is a newly-expanded health coverage program for uninsured children. The program is working to make sure that at least 95 percent of Oregon children have health coverage.

Depending on a family's income, children may be eligible for free or low-cost health insurance that covers all health needs, including doctor visits, dental care, vision, mental or behavioral health services, medicines and more. Coverage lasts for one year and children can reapply every year until their 19th birthday.

It is vital for local officials to have information about how families can sign up their kids for free and low cost health insurance. There are multiple resources available to assist families in completing the Oregon Health Plan application for a list of these resources please follow this [link](#) to the Oregon Healthy Kids Web site.

The Office of Healthy Kids is also in the process of awarding Targeted Outreach Grants to organizations across the state that will conduct outreach to hard to reach populations. A list of all the grantees will be posted to Oregon Healthy Kids Web site (www.oregonhealthykids.gov) as soon as that process is complete.

If you have any questions concerning this program, please contact:

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County Health Rankings

On February 17, 2010, *County Health Rankings* will be released in all 50 states. The *County Health Rankings* project is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). UWPHI has produced county-by-county health rankings in that state since 2003. The rankings are based on a model of population health that emphasizes the many things - clinical care access and quality of care, health behaviors, social and economic factors, and the physical environment - that make people sick. By improving in these, communities can become healthier places to live, work, learn and play.

The report will rank each county in Oregon from 1 to 36 in the different categories. The report will emphasize "where you live matters to your health."

A small planning group with representatives from the Oregon Public Health Division, local health departments and other community partners has been working to help understand the importance of these rankings and how each county can explain their own story to the media as well as to their communities.

We urge you to work with your health administrator and your public information officer to prepare for release of this report. Oregon Public Health has prepared a tool kit and will be briefing the legislature on this report during the upcoming legislative session. It is anticipated that we will receive an advance copy of the report, but nobody knows for sure how far in advance of February 17 that will take place.

Please go to www.countyhealthrankings.org to learn more. You can also sign up for a free webinar at this Web site.