



NEWS **RELEASE**

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Federal stimulus help with health insurance costs

(Salem) — Oregonians who lost jobs in recent months will find information on the Oregon Insurance Division Web site that explains who qualifies for federal stimulus help paying health insurance premiums. Consumers can find this fact sheet at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/ins/FAQs/federal-stimulus-cobra-faq.html>

Even though this is a federal program, the state Insurance Division is available to help explain basic information about how this program will work. Insurance advocates can be reached at 503-947-7984 or toll-free at 1-888-877-4894.

For eligible Oregonians, help paying insurance premiums starts March 1. People who qualify pay 35 percent of the health insurance premium. Their previous employer pays 65 percent of the cost and will be reimbursed by the federal government. The help is for up to nine months or up to six months, depending on the size of the employer.

People may be eligible for a full or partial subsidy based on the timing of their job loss, their income and whether their employer remains in business and still offers health insurance.

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The Insurance Division is part of the Department of Consumer & Business Services. For more information, visit www.insurance.oregon.gov. The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.