



**Division of Health Planning
5th Floor
(404) 656-0655**

**Certificate of Need Batching Review Cycle Notification for Home Health Agencies
September 27, 2007**

This notice is issued in compliance with Rule 111-2-2-.08(1), Batching Review Process and in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 31-6-40.1(b).

The Department of Community Health, Division of Health Planning, will accept and review Certificate-of-Need applications for new or expanded Home Health Services for certain counties in one or more State Service Delivery Regions (SSDR), as outlined herein. A map of the SSDR planning regions is attached at page 4. Pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.32(3)(b), the Division shall authorize the submission of applications for expanded Home Health Services if the net numerical need in a given planning area is 250 patients or more, or the submission of applications for new Home Health Services if the net numerical need in a given planning area is 500 patients or more.

The net numerical unmet need in the following State Service Delivery Regions exceed 250 patients but is less than 500 patients, authorizing the Division to consider applications only for **expanded** Home Health Services in these regions.

State Service Delivery Region 1 – Net Numerical Unmet Need: 295
State Service Delivery Region 4 – Net Numerical Unmet Need: 384

An applicant must propose to provide service only within a geographic service area, as defined in the rules and component plan, comprised of a county or group of counties, each which reflects a numerical unmet need, and contained within the given planning area for which the Division has authorized the submission of applications. Applicants should note that the definition of *geographic service area* is different for an applicant seeking to provide expanded services and an applicant seeking to provide new services. The following counties reflect numerical unmet need, noted in parenthesis, and are the only counties potentially eligible for new or expanded services, as authorized in the SSDR as noted above. Applicants must propose to provide services in one or more of the counties reflecting unmet need, to equal or exceed the total number of patients at or above the level required for new or expanded Home Health Services. Please note that the net numerical need is the sum of only those counties with unmet need and this total will exceed the net numerical unmet need for a given State Service Delivery Region, due to the omission of those counties that reflect a service surplus within the SSDR.

EXPANDED HOME HEALTH SERVICES ONLY

State Service Delivery Region 1

Catoosa (525)
Gilmer (102)
Pickens (675)
Polk (238)

State Service Delivery Region 4

Meriwether (87)
Pike (80)
Troup (24)
Upson (194)

All applications must be submitted in accordance with all provisions of Rule 111-2-2-.08(1) and 111-2-2-.32, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-6-43.

The Division’s next assessment of need for new or expanded Home Health Services will occur no later than **March 27, 2008**.

Notices of Intent

All parties interested in applying under the numerical need provisions must notify the Division of that party's intent to apply. The notice must be in writing and must address specifically whether the applicant intends to apply for a new or expanded service, the applicant's current service area (if applicable), the proposed geographic service area, and the proposed county or counties to be served. The Division will not accept any notices of intent submitted by either telephone, facsimile or e-mail pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(c)1. Pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(c)2, the notice of intent must be received by the Division no later than the close of business (5:00 P.M.) on Monday, October 29, 2007.

In the event that the Division fails to receive the notice of intent with the required information by the stated deadline, the interested party is automatically disqualified from applying during this batching cycle in accordance with Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(c)4.

Submitting the Certificate -of-Need Application

Pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(d), to participate in this review cycle, any interested party must have, in the Division's office, subject to a properly submitted notice of intent to apply, a properly submitted application no later than 12:00 P.M. on Monday, November 26, 2007. For the purposes of batching only and pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(e), an application will be deemed properly submitted if the following requirements are met:

- A signed original application, one (1) signed copy of the original application, and the correct filing fee are submitted in the proper form pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.06(2).
- The application must include (at Appendix A) a documented statement from the Division of Health Planning certifying that all required data surveys have been submitted to the Division and are complete.
- All of the items and information addressed in the Completeness Checklist are provided, as certified, in the "Application Certification" on page 37 of the original application.
- Pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.06(4)(b)8, the applicant must file another copy of the Certificate-of-Need application with the office of the county governing authority in the county where the existing or proposed agency will have its main administrative office. The applicant shall submit with the application, in Appendix A, an exact copy of the letter addressed and submitted to the County Commission that accompanied the submittal of the application to the County Commission.

Filing Fees

Pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.06(3), payment of a filing fee is required at the time the Certificate-of-Need application and one (1) copy are submitted to the Division. The amount of a filing fee is determined by the cost of a proposed project according to the following schedule.

- \$1,000 for projects with total costs of zero to \$1,000,000;
- One-tenth of one percent (0.001) of the total project costs for projects costing more than \$1,000,000; provided that,
- No filing fee shall exceed \$50,000.

In accordance with Rule 111-2-2-.06(3)(c), the Division will accept **only certified checks or money orders** made payable to the State of Georgia.

Application Forms

All necessary application forms are available from the Department's website. Notices of Intent should be submitted to the following address:

Certificate of Need Batching Notices of Intent
Department of Community Health
Division of Health Planning
Two Peachtree Street, NW, 5th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

The Certificate of Need Application Form and the Home Health Services Component Plan and Rules can be accessed from the Certificate of Need Section of the Department's website at www.dch.georgia.gov. From the main DCH page select the "CON Information" link located under the "Hot Topic" menu on the right hand side of the screen.

The Division will not accept any information or documents by telephone or facsimile in accordance with Rule 111-2-2-.06(5).

Batching Cycle Review Procedures

Pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(g), the batching review cycle will last 120 days. As a result, no party participating in the review process, including the Division, shall either request or be granted an extension of time past the 120th day. The first day of the batching review cycle is the day upon which all properly submitted applications are deemed to be received.

On or before the sixtieth (60th) day of the batching review cycle, the Division shall provide the applicant(s) an opportunity to meet with the Division. The Division will describe any issues with the application and provide an opportunity to the applicant(s) to amend or withdraw the application or to submit additional information. Any and all additional information must be submitted on or before the seventy-fifth (75th) day of the batching review cycle.

The last day for interested parties (including, but not limited to, competing applicant(s) and/or existing competing health care facilities) to submit letters of support or opposition addressing the underlying merits, or lack thereof, including any specific reasons for the opposition, of any pending application/s shall be the eighty-fifth (85th) day of the batching review cycle. Any letters of support and/or opposition that are received after the eighty-fifth (85th) day of the batching review cycle shall not be considered by the Division in its review of the pertinent application(s) and the letter(s) shall not become part of the master file compiled for the pertinent application(s). Letters of support and letters of opposition must pertain to only one application and one applicant. In no case shall the Division accept a letter of opposition or support that concerns multiple applicants or applications. Letters of opposition must be submitted pursuant to and in compliance with Rule 111-2-2-.06(5).

The last day for the applicant(s) to submit final amendments and responses to letters of opposition is the 110th day of the batching review cycle pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(g)5.

No later than the 120th day of the batching review cycle, the Division shall provide written notification of its decision to issue or deny a Certificate of Need to the pertinent applicant(s), pursuant to Rule 111-2-2-.08(1)(g)6 and in accordance with the review considerations in Rule 111-2-2-.32.

