

MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

SCHEDULES FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC or Commission) provides the following schedules to interested members of the public and sponsors of health care facility and service projects subject to Certificate of Need (CON) review and approval. Not every type of project is subject to the requirements of CON review and approval or included in this review schedule. In these cases, persons seeking CON approval for a project may file a letter of intent at any time. The procedural regulations governing CON reviews, COMAR 10.24.01, have been revised with an effective date of February 17, 2025. The newly adopted regulations will apply to all projects subject to this schedule. (See COMAR 10.24.01.07 and .08 for additional information on CON application filing and project review.)

The general criteria for Certificate of Need review are set forth at COMAR 10.24.01.08G(3). The first criterion is evaluation of the project according to all relevant State Health Plan standards, policies, and criteria. State Health Plan regulations can be accessed at <https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/regulations/regulations.aspx>.

This Certificate of Need review schedule updates the last schedule published in the *Maryland Register* on December 1, 2023, Volume 50, Issue 24, pages 1065-1067. This review schedule is not a solicitation by the Commission for Certificate of Need applications, and does not indicate, in and of itself, that additional capacity is needed in services subject to Certificate of Need review, or that Certificate of Need applications submitted for the services described will be approved by the Commission.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their development plans and projects with the Commission Staff prior to filing letters of intent or applications.

Letters of Intent and applications for scheduled reviews may only be received and reviewed according to these published schedules. Letters of intent for projects not covered by this review schedule (e.g., intermediate care facilities) may be filed at any time.

All Letters of Intent and Certificate of Need applications, including the required number of copies of CON applications, must be received at the offices of the **Maryland Health Care Commission, 4160 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, no later than 4:30 p.m.** on the scheduled date of submission. Letters of Intent should be filed by US mail and email to mhcc.confilings@maryland.gov, wynee.hawk1@maryland.gov, and deanna.dunn4@maryland.gov. Letters of intent for projects not covered by this review schedule may be filed at any time. For further information about review schedules or procedures, contact Ewurama Shaw-Taylor, Chief, Certificate of Need, at (410) 764-5982 or ewurama.shaw-taylor@maryland.gov.

The Commission will use the following regional configuration of jurisdictions for the General Hospital Project, Special Hospital Project, Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Project, and Comprehensive Care/Nursing Home Facility Project Review Schedules:

<u>Western Maryland:</u> Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington, Carroll	<u>Central Maryland:</u> Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford, and Howard
<u>Eastern Shore:</u> Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester	<u>Montgomery County & Southern Maryland:</u> Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's

General Hospital Projects

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedules for the submission of Certificate of Need applications by general hospitals for all projects, including those that involve: (1) establishment of a new general hospital; (2) capital expenditures by or on behalf of general hospitals that exceed the applicable capital expenditure threshold; (3) proposed changes in bed capacity or operating room capacity at existing hospitals; (4) the relocation of a general hospital; and/or (5) a change in the type or scope of any health care service offered by a general hospital, as specified at COMAR 10.24.01.02A, except for neonatal intensive care.

Schedule One Acute Care (General) Hospital Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	July 11, 2025	July 23, 2025	September 12, 2025
Western Maryland	August 1, 2025	August 13, 2025	October 3, 2025
Central Maryland	September 5, 2025	September 17, 2025	November 7, 2025
Eastern Shore	October 3, 2025	October 15, 2025	December 5, 2025

Schedule Two Acute Care (General) Hospital Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	December 5, 2025	December 17, 2025	February 6, 2026
Western Maryland	January 2, 2026	January 14, 2026	March 6, 2026
Central Maryland	February 6, 2026	February 18, 2026	April 10, 2026
Eastern Shore	March 6, 2026	March 18, 2026	May 8, 2026

Special Hospital Projects (Pediatric, Psychiatric, Chronic, and Rehabilitation)

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedules for the submission of Certificate of Need applications by special hospitals, for all projects, including those that involve: (1) establishment of a new special hospital; (2) capital expenditures by or on behalf of special hospitals that exceed the applicable capital expenditure threshold; (3) proposed changes in bed capacity at existing special hospitals; (4) the relocation of a special hospital; and/or (5) a change in the type or scope of any health care service offered by a special hospital, as specified at COMAR 10.24.01.02A.

Schedule One
Special Hospitals (Pediatric, Psychiatric, Chronic, and Rehabilitation)

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	July 11, 2025	July 23, 2025	September 12, 2025
Eastern Shore	August 1, 2025	August 13, 2025	October 3, 2025
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	September 5, 2025	September 17, 2025	November 7, 2025
Western Maryland	October 3, 2025	October 15, 2025	December 5, 2025

Schedule Two
Special Hospitals (Pediatric, Psychiatric, Chronic, and Rehabilitation)

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	December 5, 2025	December 17, 2025	February 6, 2026
Eastern Shore	January 2, 2026	January 14, 2026	March 6, 2026
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	February 6, 2026	February 18, 2026	April 10, 2026
Western Maryland	March 6, 2026	March 18, 2026	May 8, 2026

Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedules for the submission of Certificate of Need applications to establish freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities, add operating rooms at an existing freestanding ambulatory surgical facility, or make a capital expenditure by a hospital for a freestanding ambulatory surgical facility project that requires Certificate of Need review and approval. The definition of freestanding ambulatory surgical facility can be found at Health-General Article §19-114(b).

Schedule One
Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	July 11, 2025	July 23, 2025	September 12, 2025
Eastern Shore	August 1, 2025	August 13, 2025	October 3, 2025
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	September 5, 2025	September 17, 2025	November 7, 2025
Western Maryland	October 3, 2025	October 15, 2025	December 5, 2025

Schedule Two
Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	December 5, 2025	December 17, 2025	February 6, 2026
Eastern Shore	January 2, 2026	January 14, 2026	March 6, 2026
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	February 6, 2026	February 18, 2026	April 10, 2026
Western Maryland	March 6, 2026	March 18, 2026	May 8, 2026

Comprehensive Care Facilities/Nursing Homes

The Commission hereby publishes the following two schedules for Certificate of Need review of proposed projects affecting comprehensive care facilities (CCF) or nursing homes. **Schedule One A** identifies the review cycles for proposals involving the addition of CCF beds in Maryland jurisdictions in which the most recent bed need projection published in the Maryland Register identifies a net need for beds in the forecast year and for which no letters of intent or applications have been filed. Persons interested in submitting Certificate of Need applications involving the addition of beds in these jurisdictions should contact the MHCC to ascertain the current level of net bed need identified for these jurisdictions prior to the filing of a Certificate of Need application. **Schedule One and Two B** establish submission dates for Certificate of Need applications related to all other CCF projects that do not involve an increase in CCF bed capacity in the jurisdiction in which the project is located. These include projects that relocate an existing facility or, in effect, relocate CCF bed capacity from an existing facility to a new site within the same jurisdiction.

Schedule One A

Projects Proposing New Comprehensive Care/Nursing Home Facility Beds in a Jurisdiction

The Commission is not accepting applications for projects introducing new Comprehensive Care/Nursing Home Facility Beds into a jurisdiction at this time.

Schedule One B

Other Comprehensive Care/Nursing Home Facility Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	July 11, 2025	July 23, 2025	September 12, 2025
Western Maryland	August 1, 2025	August 13, 2025	October 3, 2025
Central Maryland	September 5, 2025	September 17, 2025	November 7, 2025
Eastern Shore	October 3, 2025	October 15, 2025	December 5, 2025

Schedule Two B

Other Comprehensive Care/Nursing Home Facility Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	December 5, 2025	December 17, 2025	February 6, 2026
Western Maryland	January 2, 2026	January 14, 2026	March 6, 2026
Central Maryland	February 6, 2026	February 18, 2026	April 10, 2026
Eastern Shore	March 6, 2026	March 18, 2026	May 8, 2026

Freestanding Medical Facility Projects

The Commission hereby publishes the following statewide schedule for Certificate of Need review of proposed projects by general hospitals to establish or relocate freestanding medical facilities (FMFs) and proposed capital expenditures by hospitals for FMF projects that exceed the

applicable capital expenditure threshold. Please note that this schedule does not apply to the filing of a request for an Exemption from Certificate of Need by a general hospital seeking to convert to a freestanding medical facility.

**Schedule
Freestanding Medical Facility Projects**

Planning Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
All Jurisdictions	July 11, 2025	July 23, 2025	September 12, 2025

Cardiac Surgery Services

The Maryland Health Care Commission provides the following schedule for the review of applications for Certificates of Need by general hospitals seeking to introduce cardiac surgery services. This review schedule is not a solicitation by the Commission for CON applications, and it does not indicate that additional capacity is needed or that CON applications submitted will be approved by the Commission. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their development plans and projects with the Commission staff prior to filing Letters of Intent.

Region Definitions for Cardiac Surgery

Metropolitan Washington Region: Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, and the District of Columbia	Eastern/Lower Shore Region: Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester
Western Region: Allegany, Garrett, and Washington	Baltimore/Upper Shore Region: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties and Baltimore City

**Schedule
Cardiac Surgery Services**

Planning Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
All Jurisdictions	July 11, 2025	July 23, 2025	September 12, 2025

Home Health Agency Projects

The Commission hereby publishes the following schedule for the submission of Certificate of Need applications for home health agencies. Please note that if you are a Maryland home health agency, nursing home or hospital you must pre-qualify to be a part of a Certificate of Need review. For residential service agencies (RSAs) please see the checklist on the Commission website to see if your agency qualifies before submitting a letter of intent or application. For more information on this, please contact Jeanne Marie Gawel, Chief of Long-Term Care Policy and Planning (jeanne-marie.gawel@maryland.gov). Home health agencies do not use the same regional configuration as other health care services; however, a regional service area may be created by

staff for a Certificate of Need review. For home health, a regional service area means a multi-jurisdictional region for the purpose of creating a larger population base for consideration of proposed home health projects by combining two or more jurisdictions which are geographically contiguous. Jurisdictions with a total population size of 300,000 or more will not be combined with other jurisdictions to create regional service areas.

The Commission will use the following regional configuration of jurisdictions for the Home Health Agency Project Reviews:

<u>Western Maryland:</u> Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, and Washington, Carroll	<u>Anne Arundel County</u>
<u>Baltimore City</u>	<u>Baltimore County</u>
<u>Howard County</u>	<u>Montgomery County</u>
<u>Prince George's County</u>	<u>Upper Shore:</u> Cecil, Kent, Harford, Queen Anne's
<u>Lower Shore:</u> Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester	<u>Southern Maryland:</u> Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's

**Schedule One
Home Health Agency Projects**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Western	August 15, 2025	August 27, 2025	October 17, 2025
Baltimore City, Baltimore, and Howard	September 12, 2025	September 24, 2025	November 14, 2025
Upper Shore	October 17, 2025	October 29, 2025	December 19, 2025
Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Southern	November 7, 2025	November 19, 2025	January 9, 2026
Lower Shore	November 21, 2025	December 3, 2025	January 23, 2026

**Schedule Two
Home Health Agency Projects**

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Western	December 5, 2025	December 17, 2025	February 6, 2026
Baltimore City, Baltimore, and Howard	January 2, 2026	January 14, 2026	March 6, 2026
Upper Shore	February 6, 2026	February 18, 2026	April 10, 2026
Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Southern	March 6, 2026	March 18, 2026	May 8, 2026
Lower Shore	April 3, 2026	April 15, 2026	June 5, 2026

Hospice Agency Projects

The Commission is not accepting CON applications for Hospice Agency projects at this time.