

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 is 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 review can be found at COMAR 10.24.01.

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://regs.maryland.gov/us/md/exec/comar/10.24>

This Certificate of Need review schedule updates the last schedule published in the *Maryland Register* on July 11, 2025, Volume 52, Issue 14, pages 793-796. 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 CON 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, wynec.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 Jeanne Marie Gawel, Chief of Facilities at jeanne-marie.gawel@maryland.gov or 410-764-3337.

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:

Region Definitions

<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 10, 2026	July 22, 2026	September 11, 2026
Western Maryland	August 7, 2026	August 19, 2026	October 9, 2026
Central Maryland	September 4, 2026	September 16, 2026	November 6, 2026
Eastern Shore	October 2, 2026	October 14, 2026	December 4, 2026

Schedule Two Acute Care (General) Hospital Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	December 4, 2026	December 16, 2026	February 5, 2027
Western Maryland	January 8, 2027	January 20, 2027	March 12, 2027
Central Maryland	February 5, 2027	February 17, 2027	April 9, 2027
Eastern Shore	March 5, 2027	March 17, 2027	May 7, 2027

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 10, 2026	July 22, 2026	September 11, 2026
Eastern Shore	August 7, 2026	August 19, 2026	October 9, 2026
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	September 4, 2026	September 16, 2026	November 6, 2026
Western Maryland	October 2, 2026	October 14, 2026	December 4, 2026

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 4, 2026	December 16, 2026	February 5, 2027
Eastern Shore	January 8, 2027	January 20, 2027	March 12, 2027
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	February 5, 2027	February 17, 2027	April 9, 2027
Western Maryland	March 5, 2027	March 17, 2027	May 7, 2027

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 10, 2026	July 22, 2026	September 11, 2026
Eastern Shore	August 7, 2026	August 19, 2026	October 9, 2026
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	September 4, 2026	September 16, 2026	November 6, 2026
Western Maryland	October 2, 2026	October 14, 2026	December 4, 2026

Schedule Two
Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Facility Projects

Region	Letter of Intent Due Date	Pre-Application Conference Date	Application Submission Date
Central Maryland	December 4, 2026	December 16, 2026	February 5, 2027
Eastern Shore	January 8, 2027	January 20, 2027	March 12, 2027
Montgomery & Southern Maryland	February 5, 2027	February 17, 2027	April 9, 2027
Western Maryland	March 5, 2027	March 17, 2027	May 7, 2027

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 10, 2026	July 22, 2026	September 11, 2026
Western Maryland	August 7, 2026	August 19, 2026	October 9, 2026
Central Maryland	September 4, 2026	September 16, 2026	November 6, 2026
Eastern Shore	October 2, 2026	October 14, 2026	December 4, 2026

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 4, 2026	December 16, 2026	February 5, 2027
Western Maryland	January 8, 2027	January 20, 2027	March 12, 2027
Central Maryland	February 5, 2027	February 17, 2027	April 9, 2027
Eastern Shore	March 5, 2027	March 17, 2027	May 7, 2027

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 10, 2026	July 22, 2026	September 11, 2026

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 10, 2026	July 22, 2026	September 11, 2026

Home Health Agency Projects

The Commission conducted a Statewide Certificate of Need review for Home Health Agency projects in 2025-2026. At the time of this posting, this review is ongoing. The Commission is not accepting any additional CON applications for Home Health Agency projects at this time.

Hospice Agency Projects

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