

Memorandum

Date: May 19, 2016

To: Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program Stakeholders

From: Greg Fabisiak, Environmental Integration Coordinator

Re: Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program
Now Accepting Applications from Prospective Medication Collectors

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (department) is now accepting applications from law enforcement agencies and DEA-registrants that are retail pharmacies or hospitals/clinics with on-site pharmacies that wish to participate as collectors in the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program (program). Collectors will have access to the services of Assured Waste Solutions, LLC, recently contracted by the department to provide collection, transportation, and disposal services for the program. The hiring of AWS, a DEA-registered reverse distributor, allows the program to collect prescribed controlled substances along with other prescribed and over-the-counter medications at all collection sites.

AWS will provide department-approved applicants with instructions, collection receptacles (unless an applicant already possesses one that can be used), and all materials required for the UPS-shipment of collected medications to their DEA-registered facility in Gastonia, North Carolina. AWS will arrange for the incineration of acquired medications at a waste-to-energy facility in Huntsville, Alabama. The department will be billed directly by AWS and pay for their services. These payments will be funded by legislative appropriations for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. Funding beyond June 30, 2017 will be subject to further annual appropriations.

The legislative appropriations and the hiring of AWS allow the department to expand the program throughout the state with a goal of establishing at least one collection location in each county. This goal is consistent with House Bill 14-1207, codified in state statute at C.R.S. 25-15-328, in which the Colorado general assembly stated its intent to, "...establish a household medication take-back program to facilitate the safe and effective collection and proper disposal of unused medications." The general assembly further declared that, "...citizen access to a disposal location to return unused household medications will reduce the availability of household medications for unintended or abusive purposes and will further protect the environment through proper disposal."

In addition to access to department-funded program services, approved applicants will be afforded liability protection described in C.R.S. 25-15-328 which states, "A collection site, carrier, or disposal location is not subject to liability for incidents arising from the collection, transport, or disposal of household medications if the collection site, carrier, or disposal location complies with the household medication take -back program in good faith and does not violate any applicable laws." The recently adopted *Rules and Regulations Governing the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program*, 6 CCR 1010-23, clearly establish the regulatory requirements for program participants.

If you are interested in applying as a collector in the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program please contact me at 303-692-2903 or greg.fabisiak@state.co.us. Additional information will soon be available at the program's website at www.coloradomedtakeback.info.