

Presenting the OMMP

Your Oregon Medical Marijuana Program

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA), a ballot initiative approved by voters in 1998, allows patients to possess and grow small amounts of medical marijuana. The law required DHS to create a registry system for persons authorized to use marijuana for medicinal purposes. Applicants must provide a statement from their physician that they have a qualifying medical condition and that medical marijuana might alleviate their symptoms or disease. Once their application is approved they are issued a registration card that is renewable annually. For those who understand the utilization of cannabis as medicine, this is an invaluable option in therapy. How does one get started in OMMP, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program?

Some basic facts

The role of the Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services is simply to administer the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act as approved by the voters of this State. The Department did not write the law and does not have any authority to change it or to disregard its provisions. The principal goal of the OMMP is to make the registration process work smoothly and efficiently for qualified patients.

- You must be an Oregon resident to be a registered patient in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP).
- You must have a qualifying debilitating medical condition as listed on the Attending Physician's Statement.
- Your physician must be a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) licensed to practice medicine in Oregon. You must have an established patient/physician relationship with your "attending physician." Naturopaths, chiropractors, and nurse practitioners cannot sign the documentation.
- The OMMP cannot refer you to a physician. The OMMP does not have a physician referral list.
- You must list a grow site address on your application. You, or your designated primary caregiver, may grow your own medication. There is no place in the State of Oregon to legally purchase medical marijuana.
- The OMMP cannot find a designated primary caregiver for you. The OMMP does not keep a referral list of persons who want to be caregivers for patients. (You are not required to list a caregiver, unless you are less than 18 years old.) Your caregiver cannot be your physician.
- The OMMP cannot supply you with seeds or starter plants, or give you advice on how to grow medical marijuana.
- The application fee cannot be waived. Partial payments cannot be accepted.

More FAQs are below.

HOW TO - a Guideline for Completing the Application for Registration in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program.

(1) **Get Forms** from the OHD (among other sources) and begin the process of Applying. The OMMP sometimes has packets at the front desk (Oregon Health Division, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR 97232) and there are numerous organizations that also provide copies of the forms in print as well as thru their websites. **Get and fill out the Application for Registration in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act Program.** If possible, go right to the source and call **(503) 731-4002, ext. 233** and ask a representative of the Oregon Health Division for an OMMA application packet – or – write to **OHD, P.O. Box 14450, Portland, OR 97293-0450** and they'll send you one. Or visit their website:

<http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/mm/index.cfm>

... and download forms from there. **MERCY also attempts to maintain a packet of Forms and Instructions in PDF format at:** [mercycenters.org/libry/OMMA Complete Packet.PDF](http://mercycenters.org/libry/OMMA%20Complete%20Packet.PDF) **NOTE:** This file is 2 Megabytes in size, so allow time (1+ hours) if you only have dial-up internet service, as opposed to DSL or cable.

Form Instruction NOTES: (a) Please complete Part A of the Application Form. Please provide a copy of a photo identification card as requested. If information on the front of the card is not current (for example, if your address has changed) please also photocopy the back of the id. (b) If a person over the age of 18 provides assistance to you, and you would like for that person to also receive a registration card, please complete Part B of the form, and provide a copy of photo i.d. of the primary caregiver. *[Note: there is no additional fee for a primary caregiver registration card.]* (c) Completion of Part C is optional. Please be sure to sign your name in Part D. (d) If you are a minor (under the age of 18), your parent or guardian must complete the Declaration of Person with Primary Custody of a Minor form. The form must also be notarized.

(2) **Set an appointment & have your doctor sign the Oregon Health Dept. form – or – get a copy of your chart notations showing medical marijuana "may help alleviate symptoms".** Your physician must be an MD or a DO licensed to practice in Oregon under ORS 677. He or she must provide signed, valid, written documentation stating that you are his/her patient, that you have been diagnosed with a debilitating medical condition covered by the Act, and that the medical use of marijuana may mitigate the symptoms or effects of your condition. This documentation may be in the form of a copy of your chart notes, a letter, or the attached Attending Physician's Statement form. *[Note: chart notes or a letter must include all elements of the Attending Physician's Statement form.]*

(3) **Send in your application with registration fee.** In order for your application to be complete, a fee of must be paid by check or money order. The fee is determined by the following:

- * \$150 for new applications; this fee remains unchanged;
- * \$100 for renewal applications; fee was formerly \$150 per year;
- * \$50 for applicants who are enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan or who receive federal Supplementary Social Security Income; this is a new fee reduction.

To qualify for the \$50 fee, applicants must submit documentation that verifies they are on the Oregon Health Plan or are receiving Supplemental Social Security income Please make payable to: Oregon Health Division and send payment with your application forms and/or other materials. All information will be verified.

(4) **Wait. All information will be verified.** Upon receipt of a complete application, you will be issued a medical marijuana registration card by the Oregon Health Division. Please call (731-4002, ext. 233 if you have any questions.

FAQS - Frequently Asked Questions

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) receives many questions that are not answered in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA, 1998), Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), or the application. The information provided here, courtesy of the OMMP website (<http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/mm/index.cfm>), is an effort to help you understand the role of the OMMP, its benefits and limitations.

1. **Can the OMMP refer me to a physician?**

No. The names of physicians who have submitted forms, letters, or chart notes for their patients are confidential, and the OMMP does not have a physician referral list.

There are activist groups that doctor clinics and referral systems. See list >

2. **Where do I get the seeds or plants to start growing medical marijuana?**

The OMMP is not a resource for the growing process and does not have information to give to patients.

There are activist groups that assist patients in networking and finding access to excess resources. See list >

3. **I do not have the money for the application fee. Is it a one-time payment? Can it be waived? Can I make installment payments? Will my insurance pay?**

The answer to all these questions is "no". The fee must be paid in full with each new or renewal application.

4. **Why do I need to have a physician sign and date the form or send a chart note to the OMMP? Why can't I just provide my medical records?**

According to the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (Section 4 (2)(a)), and OAR 333-008-0020(1)(a) that govern the OMMP, a physician must state in writing that the patient has a qualifying debilitating medical condition and that medical marijuana might mitigate the symptoms or effects of that condition. A signed and dated "Attending Physician's Statement," copies of chart notes or medical records must be current within 3 months of the date of a person's new or renewal application.

Sending medical records to the OMMP is fine as long as they clearly state the physician is aware that medical marijuana is being used as a treatment, and he or she clearly states that medical marijuana might benefit the patient. The physician must sign and date the relevant portions of any medical record you want to send to the OMMP. Otherwise, your physician must provide a signed and dated written statement, form, or authorized chart note to the OMMP. The OMMP contacts each physician during the application process to verify that the patient is under the physician's care. The OMMP urges patients to work closely with their attending physicians throughout the application process.

5. **Why are only MDs (Medical Doctors) and DOs (Doctors of Osteopathy) qualified to sign the "Attending Physician's Statement" of the application? Why not naturopaths, chiropractors, or nurse practitioners? Does the physician have to be licensed in Oregon?**

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act states that an "attending physician" means a physician licensed under ORS chapter 677. The definition of an "attending physician" can be found in OAR 333-008-0010(1). MDs and DOs are the physicians licensed under this chapter. The law also specifies that a physician must be licensed in Oregon. The OMMP verifies with the Board of Medical Examiners that each patient's attending physician has a valid license to practice medicine in Oregon and has no disqualifying restrictions.

6. **Do I have to list a "grow site" address on my application (that is, the address where I plan to grow my medical marijuana)?**

Yes. OAR 333-008-0020(1)(b) requires the patient to provide the OMMP with the address where his or her marijuana will be manufactured or produced--that is, a grow site address. The OMMP is aware that some patients do not plan to grow their medical marijuana and at the time of making a new or renewal application, may not yet have a designated primary caregiver and/or may not be certain where their grow site will be.

For this requirement, the OMMP offers patients two options. First, the patient knows the physical address where his or her medical marijuana will be grown and provides this address to the OMMP on the application form. Second, the patient is not certain where his or her medical marijuana will be grown and provides the physical address where the medical marijuana will most likely be grown. A PO Box is not permitted as a grow site address. Providing incorrect grow site information or failing to notify the OMMP of any change of grow site address within 30 days of such a change will result in the patient not being protected from criminal laws if local or state law enforcement agencies determine the patient or his or her designated primary caregiver is growing marijuana at a grow site not registered with the OMMP (ORS 475.316).

7. **Do I have to tell my landlord that I am a patient in the OMMP? Can my landlord evict me if I am a patient in the OMMP and have my grow site in my rental housing? Can I live in subsidized housing and be a patient in the OMMP?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to tell your landlord that you are a patient in the OMMP. Nothing in OMMP laws specifically addresses whether or not you can be evicted because you are a patient in the OMMP, even if you have only the amount of medical marijuana allowed by law. Nothing in OMMP laws specifically addresses whether or not a person can be an OMMP patient and live in subsidized housing. If you have questions about these important issues, the OMMP recommends you talk to your personal attorney to learn about your rights and protections.

8. **Do I have to tell the OMMP if I change my mailing address, add or remove a designated primary caregiver, or change my grow site address?**

The answer to all these questions is "yes". You are required to tell the OMMP in writing of any such changes within 30 days of the change. The OMMP does not accept changes of information over the telephone. The OMMP will not accept changes about the patient's address, designated primary caregiver, or grow site from any other person affiliated with the patient without the express permission of the patient. You may send your changes to the OMMP by mail, by using the facsimile number listed on the cover page of these "Frequently Asked Questions," or by coming to the State Office Building in Portland, if this is convenient. At this time, if you make a change after your registry identification card has been issued, the OMMP will not issue a new card to you. You will get written confirmation from the OMMP that the change was received. Your changes will be made in our computer database and will be put in your file. You will be protected from civil and criminal penalties for these changes.

9. What happens to my application once I mail it? What if I don't send in all the required parts of my application?

When the OMMP receives your application, it will be reviewed to make sure all parts of it have been received and are current. If your application is complete, you will get a "complete letter" from the OMMP letting you know your registry identification card will be issued within 30 days after the OMMP receives verification from your attending physician. On the same day that the OMMP sends you a "complete letter," we mail a "verification letter" to your attending physician.

The purpose of this letter is to verify that you are a patient of this physician, and for a new application, that you are affected by a debilitating medical condition covered by the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, and that medical marijuana may reduce the symptoms of your condition. If you are renewing your application, the verification letter to your attending physician is to verify that you are his or her patient.

If you don't send in all the required parts of your application, the OMMP will send you an "incomplete letter" telling you what parts of your application are missing. The incomplete letter tells you that you have 14 days from the date of the letter to get the missing parts to the OMMP and tells you the terms under which your application may be denied. When you get all missing parts of your application to the OMMP, you will be sent a "complete letter" and the OMMP will verify your status with your attending physician.

10. Do I need to keep a copy of my application and any other information I send to the OMMP?

Yes! You are strongly urged to keep copies of everything you send to the OMMP. For example, the copy of your application is your proof of protection until you are issued a registry identification card.

11. Why can't I go to a pharmacy to fill a prescription for medical marijuana?

Pharmacies can only dispense medications that are prescribed by licensed medical practitioners. The federal government classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug, which means licensed medical practitioners cannot prescribe it. The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act allows patients to grow their own medical marijuana for private use.

12. Is the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act recognized by other states? Can I travel to another state with an ounce of medical marijuana and my OMMP registry identification card and not be arrested or charged with civil or criminal penalties?

At this time, the OMMP is not aware of any "reciprocity" agreements with any other states to honor the Oregon law. This includes even those states that have medical marijuana laws of their own, such as Washington and California. At this time, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act is only recognized within our State.

13. Is my confidentiality protected?

Yes. The OMMP does not give out lists of patients or physicians. Law enforcement personnel may call the OMMP only to verify a specific name or address of a patient or caregiver. The OMMP will tell law enforcement staff if that patient, caregiver, or address is registered, or if an application is in process. The OMMP will disclose patient information to others only at the specific written request of the patient. OMMP computer files are secure and paper files are kept locked when not in use.

14. Why is getting a registry identification card important for me?

A patient is protected from civil and criminal penalties for the possession of limited amounts of marijuana specified by the law if he or she has a registry identification card and is complying with all aspects of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act.

15. What should I tell my employer when I am subjected to a drug test?

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act states that employers are not required to accommodate employees who use medical marijuana. However, the OMMP has heard that several employers treat medical marijuana like any prescription drug that might impair ability. A patient may contact the OMMP in writing to ask the Program to release information about the patient's registration to an employer.

16. It is time to renew my card and my physician's clinic has adopted a policy of not signing "Attending Physician's Statements."

A renewal application does not require a statement from a physician regarding the use of medical marijuana; however, a renewal does require the patient to demonstrate his or her debilitating medical condition continues. This could be demonstrated by a copy of relevant portions of your medical record made within 3 months of your application signed and dated by a physician stating that the patient is being treated for a debilitating medical condition. The OMMP urges patients to work closely with their attending physicians throughout the application process.

Caregiver/Patient Guidelines

The Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) allows a qualified patient to designate any person to be their caregiver for the purposes of producing or using medical marijuana. This designated caregiver is then exempted from Oregon marijuana laws just as the patient is. There are various issues that need to be considered in this relationship.

The Law

Both patient and caregiver should be familiar with the provisions of OMMA. The full text of the law and related documents are provided by the Oregon Health Division with their applicants packet for patients and interested parties. Either write to the OHD at P.O. Box 14450, Portland, OR 97293-0450 -or- Call (503) 731-4002, ext. 233 and ask a representative to send you this information.

If the garden is at the caregiver's residence, the caregiver can possess up to three dried ounces and the patient can possess up to one ounce at their residence. Either the patient or the caregiver can transport up to one ounce away from their residence. The garden can contain seven marijuana plants (3 mature). The garden must not be visible from a public place.

Patients who exceed the explicit limits of the state law may also be protected by an affirmative defense or choice of evils defense. There are many cases where strict compliance with the limits will cause patients to suffer because they are not using enough medicine. In such cases, patients should get a statement from their doctor stating that they require greater amounts.

All participants should be aware **that federal law** still prohibits marijuana possession although it is unlikely that an OMMP cardholder would be prosecuted. OMMA does not allow sale of marijuana under any circumstances.

Costs

There are costs associated with producing medical marijuana. Indoor gardens require lights, timers, fans, other equipment, and paying an electric bill. Outdoor gardens require soil, fertilizer, water, and other expenses. Costs vary greatly depending on individual circumstances and the size of the garden. OMMA does not allow the sale of marijuana under any circumstances but a patient paying the costs associated with a garden producing their medicine is not likely to be considered a sale. Patients and caregivers should agree on what, if any, contribution a patient will make towards expenses.

Medical Issues

The patient, in consultation with their physician, must ultimately be responsible for their own medical marijuana use. Caregivers can strive to provide a supply of high quality marijuana for patients to use; but they cannot take responsibility for the medical effects. Patients must inform themselves about the risks and benefits of using medical marijuana.

Supply Shortfalls

The grow-your-own system OMMA allows is much less dependable than a system allowing patients to buy medicine at a pharmacy or buyers club. It will take a caregiver 4-6 months to grow the first crop. Outdoor gardens will only produce one harvest each year. Indoor gardens can be subject to crop failures for a variety of reasons. Spider mites, over fertilizing, under fertilizing, and light cycle problems all can ruin a crop. The limit of three mature plants means there is no margin for error.

Patients and caregivers should expect periods when they will have no medicine and should discuss some contingency plans. It can be helpful to be connected to a network of other patients and caregivers who might be able to help each other by providing a safety net. OMMA does allow any cardholder to give up to an ounce of marijuana to another cardholder. Some caregivers may purchase black market marijuana for patients, although this purchase is not fully protected by OMMA.

Transportation

Patients and caregivers should agree on who will transport the marijuana to the patient's residence. It is helpful if both parties have the same expectation about how this will occur.

Disputes

Patients and their caregivers should attempt to work out any disagreements themselves. The MCRC can provide advice and information about the law, but we are not trained mediators and have no legal standing to intervene. The relationship is between two individuals.

The most common reason for problems is the caregiver being unable to supply an adequate amount of medical marijuana for the patient's needs. Patients should try to estimate their needs and agree that a caregiver will make a good faith effort to produce this much. Both parties should be aware that patients often use more medicine once they have a steady affordable supply. Planning for this may help avoid problems.

Terminating the Relationship

Either party can terminate the relationship at any time. However, termination puts the caregiver in a problematic situation because their garden ceases to be exempted from laws prohibiting marijuana. Changes in the relationship should be thoroughly considered, and, where possible, a written agreement drawn up beforehand.

To get full advantage, be fully informed. Read the text of (OMMA) the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, and the other documentation available, to understand the legal conditions and restrictions which govern medical growing and use of cannabis in Oregon. This info was from a number of sources, mostly the OMMP website. To make sure you are acting on the latest & greatest info, check with the OMMP before relying totally on data from this or any other source. When in doubt, they are the final arbiters and judges of the rules & regulations, so you might as well check with them first.

Contacting the OHD/OMMP:

Oregon (Dept. of Human Resources) Health Division,
Oregon Medical Marijuana Program
800 NE Oregon Street, #21
Portland, OR 97232-2162
(503) 731-4002, Ext. 233
e-mail: **OMMP.QA@state.or.us**
FAX (503) 872-6822

WEBSITE: <http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/mm/index.cfm>

Action Items

Help educate your circle of support about OMMA and the beneficial properties of marijuana and cannabis in general. Help with the implementation of the OMMP.

--- Sources of Information ---

Web sites to visit:

1999 Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences Report "Marijuana And Medicine: Assessing The Science Base" By Janet E. Joy, Stanley J. Watson, Jr. And John Benson Jr., Editors >
www.nap.edu/catalog/6376.html

Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (OMMA) & Oregonians for Medical Rights (OMR) Home Page:
<http://www.omma1998.org/>

Books to get and read:

Marijuana Medical Handbook by Rosenthal, Gieringer and Dr. Mikuriya, "A Guide to Therapeutic Use". ISBN#0-932551-16-5 \$16.95

Is Marijuana The Right Medicine For You? By DR's Zimmerman, Bayer and Crumpacker, ISBN#0-87983-906-6 (Keats 1998)

The Emperor Wears No Clothes By Jack Herer, The Original Hemp Bible. ISBN#1-878125-02-8 \$24.95

--- How can I help implement OMMA? ---

As an Individual ...

- **As a Patient - remember YOU represent the cause; Don't flaunt your medical marijuana usage.** While you should feel free to talk openly about the therapeutic benefits of cannabis for yourself - and proudly display your banners, which give you an opportunity to educate - you should also be considerate and always discrete in obtaining and consuming your medicine. Medicating should be personal and you should handle it as you would any other medicine. This especially includes educating family and friends, most notably children. Situations where people may mistakenly consume (ie- unmarked brownies) or otherwise be affected by some aspect (ie- second-hand smoke) must be expected and proactively managed. See **Caregiver/Patient Guidelines**, above.
- **As a Patient/Caregiver - tell everyone your anecdotal experience** (what happen to your own body, or that of someone you cared for, in your own words) when medical marijuana was utilized as opposed to other drugs. Help educate your circle of support about OMMA and the medical properties of marijuana and in general.
- **As a Concerned Citizen - Educate yourself fully and ACT. Research, network, follow up and learn as much as you can** so you can effectively share the information with others that think they are opposed. Stay in the loop and be aware of legislative, organizational or business activities that may effect yourself and/or those you care about. Constantly write to legislators, media, businesses and organizations and let them know the good news.

Organized efforts; joining us -or- forming your own (individual -or- MERCY affiliate)
other Organizations to consider ... > see list below.

- **Join a local group of patients and caregivers.** By keeping in the loop, you'll be apprised of the latest developments in the field and alert you when a vote is scheduled and the need is crucial for a letter to your state or federal elected officials. You' ll be informed of state and regional events where you can meet other advocates and help shape reform efforts.

Members and associates are needed to carry out these efforts:

- Speaking before public interest and community groups.
- Postering and passing out flyers.
- Staffing information tables at public events and concerts.
- Letter-writing campaigns and phone trees.
- Producing benefit concerts - including musicians, nightclub managers, owners, booking agents and technical workers.
- Donating money, goods or services, e.g. photocopying, printing and design work.
- Launching a particular project for which you need the help of other volunteers and/or an organizations authorization to act in its name.

The contacts listed are a few of the activists and groups dedicated to the implementation of OMMA and welcome inquiries from those with questions or issues. They provide one or more of the following services: Doctor Referrals and Patient Networks; either a caregiver (how to grow) or related Organization formed to help patients get their medicine. They may have Doctor referrals or help on filling out forms as well as contact with current Patients. *Caveat emptor! Each has it's own rules and regulations, please study & research thoroughly before committing resources.*

Activists & Orgs:

PORTLAND:

Voter Power 333 SW Park Ave, Suite 305 - call for current hours. 503.224-3051 *
www.voterpower.org

The Hemp & Cannabis Foundation (THCf)

4259 NE Broadway St.
(Hollywood dist) Portland, OR 97213 - call for an appointment:
503.235-4606 or visit:
<http://www.thc-foundation.org>

Oregon NORML

PO Box 86443, Portland, OR 97286 * 503.239.6110 *
or visit: www.ornorml.org

SALEM:

Contigo-Connigo *

Monmouth, Oregon
<http://www.or-coast.net/contigo/>

Stormy Ray Foundation * 1-503-587-7434 * P.O. BOX 220086, Portland, Oregon 97269 *
<http://www.stormyray.org/>

BEND:

Central Oregon Medical Marijuana Network (COMMnet) * 541.280-2390

EUGENE:

Eugene Compassion Center 1055 Bertelsen #10 - Office Hours: M-F Noon-6pm *
PH# 541.484.6558, FAX# 541.484.0891 <http://www.compassioncenter.net>

COAST:

Southern Oregon Medical Marijuana Network (SOMMnet) * 541.469-9999 *
www.somm-net.org * P.O. Box 6734, Brookings, OR 97415

American Alliance for Medical Cannabis - Oregon P.O. Box 47, Arch Cape, OR 97102-0047 *
<http://home.pacifier.com/~alive/aamcoregon.htm>

JACKSONVILLE:

Southern Oregon Voter Power (SOVP) * 541.890-0100

ROSEBURG:

Douglas County Voter Power (DCVP) *
541.445-2886

Alternative Medicine Outreach Program (AMOP) *
541.459-0542

Please give us feedback and help keep this info current.

the MERCY Plan

MERCY is a not-for-profit group founded by patients, caregivers, advocates and other compassionate and concerned citizens. We are dedicated to helping and advocating for those involved with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP). The mission of MERCY is to bring about change and establish safeguards for the future. The goal is the empowerment of the people through their votes and general activism. To get the people involved in this and all issues. To inform and direct people towards an independent and better quality of life. To this end we provide, among other things, ongoing education to clinics, individual physicians and other healthcare providers about the OMMP, cannabis as medicine and doctor rights in general.

“**MERCY**” stands for **Medical Cannabis Resource Center – Me.R.Ce.**, and is a grass roots organization that advocates reasonable, fair and effective marijuana laws and policies, and strives to educate, register and empower voters to implement such policies.

MERCYs objectives are to provide information to patients, and all that are looking for information about the O.M.M.P. or medicinal marijuana in general. On a daily basis they assist people in educating their doctor (or finding a new one), clinics, caregivers, were to get medicine and how to keep your garden growing and clean - among other things.

Plan of Action

Regular meetings. The Medical Cannabis Resource Center is reaching out to the community and organizes regular, public monthly meetings throughout Oregon. Meetings usually start at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month, but call ahead to be sure, or check the calendar online.

Volunteers at the Medical Cannabis Resource Center try to establish and maintain office space in order to assist people with the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program. Some of the functions we perform there are helping patients find access to excess medicine, educating people about cannabis's therapeutic benefits, helping to fill out OMMP forms, answer questions and generally communicating with walk-in contacts through the office. It is a daily effort to provide information to the public so they can decide, or help loved ones decide, if cannabis is right for them and the steps they should take from there. We also monitor and negotiate with government agencies involved with medical marijuana, so contact them with your issues.

The basic strategy will be to join and initiate events & actions; to research and broadcast news & info – to be media outlet for cardholders and interested parties. MERCY wants to be in a position to help or even launch initiative and like activities; to make available basic legal help for all medical cannabis users; to provide real and practical drug education; to be a part of the community.

Patients and doctors in OMMP will be able to network and share information about their conditions and how to obtain & apply their medicine – growing tips, cooking recipes, which strains work best, etc. MERCY hopes to educate doctors and patients in general on their rights as well as the truth on the medical effects – beneficial and otherwise.

Doctor Clinics. In order to best serve those who use cannabis for medical purposes but are not yet in the OMMP, as well as current patients, the MERCY is exploring hosting clinics where certified physicians can perform the necessary examinations and consider qualifying a persons OMMP application. Volunteer staff is training to follow the recent strict Board of Medical Examiners rules concerning the process and resources are being lined up. This coincides with ongoing education to clinics, individual physicians and other healthcare providers about the OMMP, cannabis as medicine and doctor rights in general. This project ties in with a planned symposium on working within OMMA for doctors and attorneys. Doctor education and support, Patient and Caregiver projects like learning to grow and different methods for consumption. These are especially important for the first time medical cannabis user as well as those unable to smoke their medication.

----- **OMMP - the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program** -----

Through the above actions, MERCY intends to build a volunteer base for constant recruitment & administration of the organization for the future. Through marketing and communications they hope to coordinate with business and organizations to make a lasting, positive change in the community.

Oregon has seen the number of State certified patients grow to over 4,000 and even law enforcement is admitting that the criminal problems they expected have not occurred. More and more health care professionals are being educated through personal experience with legal patients. They see patients who forgo harsh prescription drugs, the cost often paid by insurance, to use cannabis, which they find more effective. They see patients with improved health and mental attitudes.

Family, friends and acquaintances of patients are also having their own educational experience as they too see the benefits of medicinal cannabis. As more patients become certified this process will only expand.

But, while some medical marijuana advocates are pushing to expand the existing law, others are worried about protecting hard-won gains. While there are almost 5000 Oregonians registered as medical marijuana patients, law enforcement still maintains cannabis has no medical value and has already tried legislation to restrict access to the program as the first step in killing it.

PLEASE register, vote and get everyone you know to do so also. CONSIDER contacting us to donate, volunteer or otherwise help the Mercy Center as they assist the poorest and most dis-connected in society help themselves.

This information provided by MERCY, your



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Cornelius, Oregon, 97113

Phone: <TBA>

eMail: MERCY_WashCo@hotmail.com

www.MercyCenters.org