



HOSPICE CARE | PALLIATIVE CARE | GRIEF CARE | CORK'S PLACE KIDS GRIEF CENTER
November 26th, 2025

Certificate of Need Program

Washington State Department of Health

CN@doh.wa.gov

Re: Letter of Intent to Apply for a Certificate of Need – Hospice Agency in Yakima County

To Whom It May Concern,

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy hereby submits this Letter of Intent to apply for a Certificate of Need (CON) to expand our existing Medicare-certified hospice agency services from Benton and Franklin counties into Yakima County, Washington.

We previously explored the potential acquisition of a Yakima County hospice provider's Certificate of Need after being informed they were considering allowing their certificate to expire and discontinuing hospice services. That provider has since indicated an intention to retain its CON. In preparing for that potential acquisition, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy conducted a review of 2023–2024 Medicare utilization data specific to Yakima County, which indicated that only about 40% of eligible residents are receiving hospice care and that fewer than 100 patients per day are being served countywide. This suggests a substantial unmet need for hospice services in Yakima County.

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy has a demonstrated record of expanding access to hospice services, having increased hospice utilization in our current service area by approximately 5–10% each year since 2022. In the broader context, hospice utilization across Washington remains below national averages by roughly 10 percent, with statewide utilization below 60%, underscoring the need for expanded access and education regarding hospice services, particularly for high-need and underserved populations.

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring timely access to high-quality end-of-life care, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy intends to extend its mission-driven services into Yakima County. We are prepared to pay the applicable hospice Certificate of Need review fee and to comply with all requirements established by the Department of Health. As a nonprofit with finite resources, we rely largely on the Medicare utilization data we already purchase annually, and we will incorporate this and other available data to demonstrate need in our forthcoming application. Full project costs will include the roughly \$25,000 application fee, from which point Tri-Cities Chaplaincy, once awarded, will scale current operations as we move into this neighboring county, which will include a "drop-in" site located in Yakima County for patient care staff and field supply storage (estimated as roughly \$36,000/ annually).



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For these reasons, Tri-Cities Chaplaincy believes there is a compelling need for an additional hospice agency in Yakima County and that our organization is uniquely positioned to meet this need through proven growth in hospice utilization, strong community outreach and education, and geographic proximity to Yakima County. Through this Letter of Intent, we respectfully notify the Department of Health of our intent to submit a full Certificate of Need application by December 31, 2025, with the goal of establishing additional hospice services in Yakima County.

Thank you for your consideration of this Letter of Intent. Please advise if any additional information is needed at this stage or if there are specific formatting, content, or scheduling requirements we should follow as we prepare our full Certificate of Need application.

Sincerely,

[Laurie Jackson \(Nov 26, 2025 11:23:35 PST\)](#)

Laurel Jackson

Chief Executive Officer

Tri-Cities Chaplaincy

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Letter of Intent - Yakima County CN - Tri-Cities Chaplaincy 2025

Final Audit Report

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