

February 13, 2026

Zoe Diaz, Chief Operations and Compliance Officer
Tri-Cities Chaplaincy
Sent via email only: ZoeD@TCCBestLife.org

RE: CN#26-19 Tri-Cities Chaplaincy

Zoe Diaz:

The Department of Health received the Certificate of Need (CN) application submitted by Tri-Cities Chaplaincy proposing to establish a Medicare- and Medicaid-certified hospice agency to serve residents of Yakima County on or before December 31, 2025.

Hospice projects of this type are subject to the concurrent review cycles identified in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-310-290. For projects in Yakima County, Letters of Intent (LOIs) must be submitted before the last working day of November.¹ Your LOI was received on November 26, 2025, and identified **no capital costs** associated with the project and start-up costs consisting only of the application fee. The application submitted by Tri-Cities Chaplaincy identified **\$53,400 in movable equipment costs**. These costs meet the definition of a capital expenditure under WAC 246-310-010(10).

Because the proposed capital costs differ significantly between the LOI and the application, the department concludes that the project described in the application is significantly different from the project described in the LOI.

WAC 246-310-080(3) states: *“In the event that the application proposes a project that is significantly different than that proposed in the letter of intent, the department shall consider the application the letter of intent and no further action shall be taken until the end of the thirty-day letter of intent period.”*

Because hospice letters of intent for Yakima County projects may only be submitted during the time frame identified in WAC 246-310-290, the department cannot consider this application to be

¹ Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-310-290 provides the concurrent review cycles for Hospice applications. Letters of intent for Yakima County must be received before the last working day of November of each year. Additionally, WAC 246-310-080(5)(a) provides the guidance for submission of letters of intent for concurrent reviews by stating: *“Any person proposing undertakings subject to concurrent review shall submit a letter of intent according to the applicable schedule.”*

a new letter of intent. As a result, the application is not timely, and the Certificate of Need application submitted by Tri-Cities Chaplaincy to establish a hospice agency in Yakima County will not be accepted. We are processing the refund of your application fee, which should arrive in the next five-to-eight weeks.

APPEAL OPTION

This decision may be appealed. You or any person with standing may request an adjudicative proceeding to contest this decision within 28 calendar days from the date of this letter. The notice of appeal must be filed according to the provisions of Revised Code of Washington 34.05 and Washington Administrative Code 246-310-610. A request for an adjudicative proceeding must be received within the 28 days at one of the addresses listed on the following page.

Mailing Address:

Department of Health
Adjudicative Service Unit
Mail Stop 47879
Olympia, WA 98504-7879

Physical Address

Department of Health
Adjudicative Service Unit
111 Israel Road SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

If you have any questions or would like to arrange for a meeting to discuss this decision, please call me at (360) 236-2955.

Sincerely,



Eric Hernandez, Program Manager
Certificate of Need
Community Health Systems