

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**HEALTH**

**THE COMMISSIONER**

**Notice of Invitation for Certificate of Need Applications for Designation as a Level II Trauma Center in Union County, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.1(a)2**

**Take notice** that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., and the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.1(a), Cathleen D. Bennett, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health (Department), is inviting certificate of need applications on a full review basis for designation as a Level II trauma center in Union County in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:43G-12.12 and N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq. The Department is initiating this call because an acute care hospital has presented documentation indicating that there may be a potential need for a Level II trauma center in Union County. Certificate of need applications in response to this notice will be accepted for processing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.5.

Issuance of this call does not constitute a finding of need by the Department for the designation of an additional Level II trauma center in the affected area. Acceptance of applications pursuant to this notice does not constitute a finding of need by the Department for the services proposed in the application(s). The Department reserves the right to disapprove all applications submitted in response to the call if the Department determines that applicants have not satisfactorily demonstrated need or compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8, N.J.A.C. 8:33 and 8:43G.

On January 1, 2015, the American College of Surgeons (ASC) Committee on Trauma Systems Evaluation and Planning Committee, issued a Statement finding that “[r]egional trauma system implementation has been shown to improve mortality and reduce complications. The number, level, and location of trauma centers are critical elements of trauma system function and disaster response. The importance of controlling the allocation of trauma centers, as well as the need for a process to designate trauma centers based upon regional population need, has been recognized as an essential component of trauma system design since the 1980s.” The ASC Committee on Trauma recommends that trauma system needs be assessed based on access, quality of patient care, population mortality rates, and trauma system efficiency, rather than the needs of individual health care organizations or hospital groups.

In addition to the information required in Application Form CN-3, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8 and N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.9(a), each applicant shall demonstrate the following for major trauma cases in 2015 and 2016:

1. Major traumas involving a Union County resident treated at a hospital in Union County or a contiguous county;
  2. Major trauma cases occurring within Union County and treated at a hospital in Union County or a contiguous county;
  3. Major trauma cases treated at a hospital in Union County or a contiguous county;
- and
4. Factors, including demographic and geographic, impacting trauma center access for major trauma cases that occur within Union County or a contiguous county.

For purposes of this notice, “major trauma” means an injury to a trauma patient who sustains a sudden injury, due to violence or other forces, that requires medical/surgical intervention to prevent death or disability. Patients included are those with both injuries in the ICD-9 CM diagnostic or injury code range of 800.00 through 959.9 and an associated E (external cause of injury) code, with the exception of drowning or suffocation, or the ICD-10 equivalents. Patients must also meet, as a result of such injury rather than another disease or condition, one or more of the following criteria:

1. Transfer to a designated trauma or burn center from another acute care hospital;
2. Admission to intensive or critical care or another monitored setting;
3. Hospitalization for three or more days;
4. Injury score of three or more on the Abbreviated Injury Scale;
5. Survival probability of 90 percent or less according to the Trauma Score/Injury Severity Score (TRISS) method; or
6. Death (including deaths in the emergency department).

N.J.A.C. 8:43G-12.13.

The Department invites existing designated Level I and Level II trauma centers, as well as any other non-applicants, to file a written submission with the Department in response to any certificate of need applications submitted pursuant to this notice.

Copies of submitted applications may be obtained upon request using the following link:

[https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ\\_OPRA/opraRequest.jsp?deptname=Health&divisionChoice=46:Health:HCS:Certificate%20of%20Need%20and%20Licensing:dhcsacustodian@doh.nj.gov](https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ_OPRA/opraRequest.jsp?deptname=Health&divisionChoice=46:Health:HCS:Certificate%20of%20Need%20and%20Licensing:dhcsacustodian@doh.nj.gov).

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8 and N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.9(a), a written statement submitted by an existing designated Level I or Level II trauma center may address the impact that an applicant's requested designation as a Level II trauma center would have on the trauma services provided by the existing trauma center.

**Geographic areas to be served:** Union County and contiguous counties.

**Date application is due:** November 6, 2017

**Date completeness review decision is anticipated to be issued:** February 6, 2018

**Date State Health Planning Board is anticipated to review the applications and submit recommendations to the Commissioner:** May 3, 2018

Prospective applicants may obtain a certificate of need application (Form CN-3) for full review on the Department's website at [www.nj.gov/health/forms](http://www.nj.gov/health/forms) and shall submit the completed application using electronic media and 35 paper copies of the application to:

Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program

New Jersey Department of Health

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(609) 292-6552 or 292-7228