

# Help for Troubled Insurance Exchange

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King has faced growing pressure from the Legislature and the exchange's governing board to explain what went wrong and how it will be fixed.

The governor said the problems with the exchange have been "frustrating" and the state will do a post-mortem analysis of what went wrong - but not until later. For now, the state is focused on getting Oregonians enrolled via the manual paper system, he said.

"We have limited time, so we're putting all hands on deck to make

sure every person who wants insurance by Jan. 1 will have it," Kitzhaber said.

The governor also said he should have been paying more attention to Cover Oregon's woes.

"In retrospect, I should have been more engaged in the project. I didn't realize the problems were so significant," he said.

Cover Oregon is supposed to allow people to shop online for health coverage, find out whether they qualify for tax credits under the federal health care law, and enroll in an insurance plan or Medicaid. But Oregon's system

has struggled to accurately determine whether people are eligible for Medicaid or tax credits.

State officials say Cover Oregon's online enrollment should work for individuals by mid-December, but not in time for people to get coverage that begins Jan. 1. To have coverage at the start of the year, applications must be postmarked by Dec. 4 and a plan must be selected by Dec. 15.

Kitzhaber has been a staunch supporter of the exchange, persuading state lawmakers to approve a robust, ambitious platform. While other states building their own insurance exchanges have compromised on certain features, Oregon has held on to its vision of building a complicated clearinghouse that could screen people for a wide range of public assistance programs, not just health care.

# Soul District Tree Lighting

The community is invited to experience the wonder of the holiday season by joining a Tree Lighting Celebration at the gateway entrance into north and northeast Portland.

The event will be held Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Martin Luther King Boulevard Gateway and Heritage Markers plaza on the corner of Northeast Schuyler,

Hancock and Grand Avenue. The ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. with the lighting at 5:30 p.m. There will be live music and entertainment by local artists, and a raffle for prizes.

For every non-perishable item of food you bring to the celebration for Martha's Pantry, you will receive one raffle ticket for the opportunity to win various prizes

at the event.

The North/Northeast Business Association and its annual "Illuminating the Soul Holiday Campaign" is the sponsor of the event. Inner north and northeast Portland was coined "the Soul of Portland" over 15 years ago by NNEBA Board members, community partners and city of Portland officials.

**NNEBA Attention Soul District Businesses and Residents**

Calling 5,000 Shoppers!

Join NNEBA as we kick off our Annual Membership Drive and the Holiday Season in Inner N/NE Portland

Events Include:

- **Sat Nov 30 National Shop Small Day:** Spend your holiday dollars with our local inner N/NE small businesses as part of the national movement to celebrate small business.
- **Sat Nov 30 N/NE Community Tree Lighting:** 5-6:30pm (MLK Gateway Heritage Marker square- NE Grand, Hancock & MLK)
  - o Music from local artists
  - o Complimentary Coco, coffee and sweet treats
  - o Raffle: Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Martha's Pantry and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win some great gifts from Soul District businesses
- **Sat Dec 7 Food Cart Pavilion Fest:** Visit the food carts for special holiday feasts (NE MLK/Jarret & NE Fremont/Vancouver)
- **Sat Dec 14 Hitzville Motown Review:** 7:00pm at the Oregon Convention Center. Tickets: [www.eventbrite.com/event/8923844459](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/8923844459)
- **Wed Dec 18 Jingle Holiday Dash:** 6:45pm join the festive No Po Run Club for Running, Caroling & Libations.
- **Sat Dec 21 Specialized Holiday Gift Wrapping:** by B.A.G. & Company Interior Design at 311 N. Ivy St - Noon to 6:30pm/ For More Information: (503) 789-7074.

For More Info on these and other great Soul District Events follow us on Facebook:  
NNEBA North/Northeast Business Association PDX  
Make a difference in our community by joining NNEBA Today, winner of the 2013 Spirit of Portland Award. Call: 503-841-5032

Coming Soon: [www.NNEBAportland.org](http://www.NNEBAportland.org)

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