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## Humana to add 700 jobs

### Mail-order pharmacy center is a growing business

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Already moving nearly 1,200 employees into its new building in Walnut Hills, Humana Inc. will add up to 700 more jobs in the region during the next three years.

Humana, one of the biggest insurers in the area with more than half a million customers, will open a mail-order pharmacy distribution center in West Chester, which eventually will house up to 400 employees. The company also will add nearly 200 workers in its Pharmacy Solutions Center in its current offices in the Grand Baldwin building off Gilbert Avenue. Both of those serve customers from across the country.

Humana also plans to use 100 customer-service employees who will work from home, and has filled about 60 of those jobs internally.

Tim Cappel, president of Humana of Ohio, said the company's overall business is showing healthy growth.

He said the pharmacy distribution center will include a call center and a warehouse for the increasing numbers of Medicare and commercial members who order their pharmacy products by phone or mail.

"That is the fastest-growing segment of the business," Cappel said.

Humana has leased about 140,000 square feet in a building along Interstate 75, near Dell Inc.'s distribution center.

Louisville-based Humana announced in May 2007 that it would move into the new regional offices and service center, bringing its local payroll to nearly 1,200. That move should be complete within the next couple of weeks.

Salaries for the new jobs depend on experience and could range from the mid-\$30,000s for support staff to more than \$100,000 for doctors of pharmacy, with many of the positions paying \$50,000 or more, Humana said.

Cappel said the new expansion was driven by the popularity of its product, the quality of the employee base in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, and the region's central location to other Humana markets.

With companies all over the region shedding jobs, health care and insurance are among the few industries still adding jobs.

Area hospitals are searching to fill more than 2,500 jobs, according to a report issued earlier this week.

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