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## \$20 MILLION EXPANSION

# Pharmacy Company to Bring 670 Jobs to Lakeland

**Located off Swindell Road, mail-order pharmacy and benefit manager to start hiring next year; average salary: \$42,000.**

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THE LEDGER

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LAKELAND | WellDyneRX, a mail-order pharmacy and benefit management firm, has selected Lakeland for an expansion that could bring 670 new jobs.

The \$20 million expansion is the first for Centennial, Colo.-based WellDyne, which will do the bulk of its hiring in 2009 and 2010, with salaries averaging roughly \$42,000. The private company is leasing a 66,000-square-foot facility off Swindell Road, near County Line Road, that will serve WellDyne clients nationwide. A statement from the company Monday didn't say how many employees will be hired this year.

"This is a major expansion," said Damien Lamendola, WellDyne's president and chief executive. "I think we'll have the majority of our customer growth coming here for the next several years."

The Lakeland facility, scheduled to open in November, will use advanced robotics to dispense medications for WellDyne's mail-order pharmacy business, with the capacity to fill more than 30 million prescriptions per year. The company, which also manages drug benefit programs for health plans, will be hiring a mix of pharmacists, technicians, information technology and administrative staff for the Lakeland site; between 200 and 300 of the employees will work in WellDyne's call center.



WellDyne, formed in 1990, now serves more than 3 million health plan members nationwide and has 150 employees. Customers include managed care organizations, Medicare and government health plans, as well as employer and union health plans.

Officials said Lakeland beat out competing cities Raleigh, N.C., and Charleston, S.C., for the expansion partly because it is home to distribution centers for McKesson Corp. and Cardinal Health, major pharmaceutical suppliers for WellDyne.

Because WellDyne salaries will exceed local averages, the company qualifies for economic incentives, but Lakeland officials were not able to provide specific figures Monday.

"One of the things we've been working on is our high-skill, high-wage effort, and this is the perfect example of the type of company we're trying to attract," said Steve Scruggs, director of the Lakeland Economic Development Council. "I don't think it could have come at a better time for Lakeland."

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