



March 06, 2015

Champions for Coverage:

With the 2015 open enrollment period now over, we will begin sending these emails twice a month. There is still a lot of important information coming out of CMS including policy updates, resources, and webinars.

This issue has the latest enrollment numbers, Special Enrollment Period Announcements, and new tax resources.

[NEW/UPDATED CONTENT AND WEBINARS](#)

New: 2016 Open Enrollment Period

The 2016 Open Enrollment Period for the Marketplace will start on November 1, 2015 and run through January 31, 2016. As you prepare for the next Open Enrollment Period, and work with consumers we wanted you to have those dates in mind. These dates are listed in the [Payment Notice fact sheet](#), and the [press release announcing the Payment Notice](#).

HHS Partnership Center Webinar:

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of webinars for faith and community leaders. All webinars are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have.

To participate in one of the webinars, please select your preferred topic from the list below and submit the necessary information.

[Got Coverage? Next Steps in Using Your Health Insurance](#)

March 5 at 2 pm EST

(1 pm CT, Noon MT, 11 am PT)

To Join By Phone Only, Dial +1 (415) 655-0051, Access Code: 910-370-456

For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

[Questions and Answers on Federal Taxes and Health Coverage](#)

March 11 at 2:00 pm EDT

(1:00 pm CT, Noon MT, 11:00 am PT)

To Join By Phone Only Dial: +1 (213) 929-4212, Access Code: 676-709-409

For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

[Special Enrollment Periods and Resources for the Uninsured](#)

March 12 at 1:00 pm EDT

(Noon CT, 11 am MT, 10 am PT)

To Join By Phone Only, Dial +1 (562) 247-8321, Access Code: 172-763-629

For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

[Questions and Answers on Federal Taxes and Health Coverage](#)

March 25 at 2:00 pm EDT

(1:00 pm CT, Noon MT, 11:00 am PT)

To Join By Phone Only Dial: +1 (951) 384-3421, Access Code: 425-387-455

For those joining by phone only, the Pin Number is the # key.

Affordable Care Act 101 Webinars for Small Employers, Including Nonprofit Organizations

The Small Business Administration (SBA), the Department of Health Human and Services, and Small Business Majority have teamed up for a free weekly webinar series where small employers can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and what it means for their organization and employees. Topics covered include cost containment, the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit, the new Health Insurance Marketplace, and Employer Shared Responsibility. Webinar content will generally be the same each week. Below are the registration links for upcoming webinars in English and Spanish.

March 12 at 2:00 PM ET

[Click to Register](#)

March 19 at 2:00 PM ET

[Click to Register](#)

March 26 at 2:00 PM ET

[Click to Register](#)

Spanish-language ACA 101 Webinars

March 10 at 4:00 PM ET

[Click to Register](#)

March 24 at 4:00 PM ET

[Click to Register](#)

NEWS AND UPDATES

New: Nearly 10.8 Million Additional Individuals Enrolled in Medicaid as of December 2014

The Affordable Care Act is now a part of the fabric of our improved American healthcare system. Millions of Americans who were previously uninsured now have access to affordable

health coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The Medicaid and CHIP data being release today shows enrollment reaching nearly 10.8 million additional individuals as of December 2014. This represents an 18.6 percent increase over the average monthly enrollment for July through September of 2013, the pre-Marketplace open enrollment timeframe. Twenty-eight states, plus the District of Columbia, have provided greater access to health care coverage to uninsured low-income individuals by expanding Medicaid coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

Among states that had implemented the Medicaid expansion and were covering newly eligible adults in December 2014, Medicaid and CHIP enrollment rose by over 27 percent compared to the July-September 2013 baseline period, while states that did not expand Medicaid during the reporting period showed an increase of over 7 percent over the same period.

Likewise, we continue to see growth in health coverage through the Marketplace. As of February 15, about 11.4 million Americans selected Marketplace plans or were automatically re-enrolled, including about 8.6 million through the HealthCare.gov platform, and – based on preliminary data provided to us through the State Based Marketplaces – about 2.8 million through these state Marketplaces.

These numbers affirm the fact that the Affordable Care Act is working and is truly an important part of the everyday lives of millions of Americans. Individuals finally have the financial and health security that comes with affordable health coverage.

We remain encouraged by interest from governors from all across the country who understand both the economic benefits of Medicaid expansion and the health and financial security it brings to many individuals. We urge the remaining states to expand Medicaid coverage. There is no deadline for when a state must decide whether to expand Medicaid, and enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP is ongoing. We remain committed to working together toward the larger goals of high quality, affordable health coverage for all Americans.

To read the report visit: <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/medicaid-and-chip-application-eligibility-determination-and-enrollment-data.html>

New: Open Enrollment Numbers

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the final weekly Open Enrollment snapshot for the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces. Open Enrollment ended on

February 15 but consumers who waited in line at the call center or who experienced technical issues were able to sign-up for coverage until February 22 through a special enrollment period. This is the final Open Enrollment 2015 snapshot and includes data through February 22 to capture those consumers who signed up for affordable coverage during the special enrollment period.

HHS has also released a re-enrollment snapshot providing information related to the millions of consumers with coverage in 2014 who actively selected a Marketplace plan or were automatically re-enrolled through the HealthCare.gov platform for coverage in 2015. The re-enrollment snapshot looks at overall plan selections by enrollment status in the 37 states using the HealthCare.gov platform, including details of how many consumers were automatically re-enrolled and the number of consumers who actively selected the same plan or a different plan.

Of the approximately 8.84 million consumers who selected a plan or were automatically re-enrolled through the HealthCare.gov platform between November 15, 2014, and February 22, 2015, 53 percent were new consumers. Marketplace consumers who had 2014 coverage and who re-enrolled in 2015 accounted for about 4.17 million active plan selections or automatic re-enrollments – 47 percent of the total plan selections.

Each week during Open Enrollment 2015, weekly snapshots were released to provide a more detailed look at the millions of consumers who visited HealthCare.gov, shopped for coverage, selected plans or were automatically re-enrolled through the HealthCare.gov platform; which includes the Federally Facilitated Marketplaces, State Partnership Marketplaces and supported State-Based Marketplaces.

We have now completed processing the information submitted by most of those with citizenship and immigration data matching issues described in last week's snapshot. As a result, approximately 90,000 consumers who had 2014 coverage were not able to continue their Marketplace coverage in 2015 because they did not provide the necessary documentation of their citizenship or immigration status (the previous estimate was 200,000). Their coverage has been terminated and these individuals are no longer included in the cumulative total. As such, the change in the weekly and cumulative total reflects both the increased number of sign-ups due to the special enrollment period and the reduced number of re-enrollees due to this action.

HHS will produce a more detailed report that looks at plan selections across the Federally Facilitated Marketplace and State-Based Marketplaces in March. In addition, the weekly snapshot only looks at plan selections and automatic re-enrollment. It does not detail the number of consumers who paid their premiums to effectuate their enrollment.

Definitions and details on the data are included in the glossary.

Federal Marketplace Snapshot

Federal Marketplace Snapshot	Week 14	Cumulative
	Feb 16 – Feb 22	Nov 15 – Feb 22
Plan Selections	40,714	8,838,291
Applications Submitted	231,890	12,410,323
Call Center Volume	918,423	15,324,491
Average Call Center Wait Time	8 minutes 31 seconds	8 minutes 17 seconds
Calls with Spanish Speaking Representative	90,871	1,471,607
Average Wait for Spanish Speaking Rep	19 seconds	1 minute 17 seconds
HealthCare.gov Users	2,002,353	33,845,038
CuidadoDeSalud.gov Users	49,174	1,330,493
Window Shopping HealthCare.gov Users	172,435	9,342,630
Window Shopping CuidadoDeSalud.gov Users	6,661	280,790

Plan selections by Enrollment Status

Table 1: Plan Selections by Enrollment Status (in millions)	
New Consumers	4.67
2014 Consumers Actively Renewing Coverage	2.21
2014 Consumers Automatically Re-Enrolled	1.96
Total	8.84

The Weekly Snapshot, including a glossary of terms can be found here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/open-enrollment-week-fourteen.html>

The Re-enrollment Snapshot can be found here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/open-enrollment-2015-re-enrollment.html>

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND TAX RESOURCES

Reminder: Corrected 1095A Forms to go out to some consumers

CMS completed the initial mailing of 1095-A forms to consumers a couple of weeks ago. The majority of Marketplace consumers received correct 1095-As, but some marketplace consumers received a 1095-A form that listed an incorrect benchmark plan premium amount. Consumers with affected forms will begin receiving updated 1095-A forms in early March.

Marketplace consumers concerned about the status of their 1095-A forms should take the following actions:

1. You can find out if you are affected by logging in to your account at HealthCare.gov. You will see a notice message that will let you know if your form was or was not affected. A majority of tax filers with Marketplace coverage through HealthCare.gov that received a 1095-A– about 80 percent – will find that their form was not affected by this issue and will be able to file their taxes with their current form.
2. Wait to file if your form was affected. It’s best to wait to file your tax return until you receive your corrected 1095-A Form from the Marketplaces. New forms are being sent from the Marketplace beginning in early March. When your corrected form is ready, we’ll also send a message to your Marketplace account on HealthCare.gov.
3. If you need to file now, use our tool. If you can’t wait, and want to find the correct amount of the second lowest cost Silver plan that applied to your household in 2014, you have 2 options: 1) You can use [this tool](#) to find that amount, or 2) You can call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) and they can help.

A blog post about corrected 1095 A forms is available here:

<http://blog.cms.gov/2015/02/20/what-consumers-need-to-know-about-corrected-form-1095-as/>

Reminder: Special Enrollment Period for Tax Season

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today a special enrollment period (SEP) for individuals and families who did not have health coverage in 2014, and are subject to the fee or “shared responsibility payment” when they file their 2014 taxes in states with a federal Marketplace. This special enrollment period will allow those individuals and families who were unaware of this new requirement to enroll in 2015 health insurance coverage through the federal Marketplace.

For those who were unaware of the fee for not enrolling in coverage when they could afford it, CMS will provide consumers with an opportunity to purchase health insurance coverage from March 15 to April 30. If consumers do not purchase coverage for 2015 during this special enrollment period, they may have to pay a fee when they file their 2015 income taxes.

Those eligible for this special enrollment period live in states with a Federally-facilitated Marketplace and are:

- Currently not enrolled in coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace for 2015,
- Attest that when they filed their 2015 tax return they paid the fee for not having health coverage in 2014, and

- Attest that they first became aware of, or understood the implications of, the Shared Responsibility Payment after the end of open enrollment (February 15, 2015) in connection with preparing their 2014 taxes.

The special enrollment period announced today will begin on March 15, 2015 and end at 11:59 pm E.S.T. on April 30, 2015. If a consumer enrolls in coverage before the 15th of the month, coverage will be effective on the first day of the following month.

The full press release can be accessed at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-releases/2015-Press-releases-items/2015-02-20.html>

Additional tax information can be found at:

<https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/tax-information.html>

<https://www.healthcare.gov/taxes/>

<http://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/>

HHS BLOG POSTS ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTHCARE.GOV

Blog post from Friday, February 27

Title: An Invitation to Participate in the Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/participate-healthcare-payment-learning-action-network.html>

Blog post from Thursday, February 26

Title: Every Story is Personal: Share Your #GetCovered Story

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/every-story-is-personal.html>

Blog post from Wednesday, February 25

Title: Paying a fee for not having health coverage in 2014? You may qualify for an exemption.

Link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/are-you-exempt-from-the-fee-for-not-having-2014-health-coverage/>

Blog post from Wednesday, February 25

Title: Open Enrollment Week 14: February 16, 2015 – February 22, 2015

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/open-enrollment-week-fourteen.html>

Blog post from Wednesday, February 25

Title: Open Enrollment 2015 Re-Enrollment Snapshot

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/open-enrollment-2015-re-enrollment.html>

Blog post from Monday, February 23

Title: Nearly 10.8 Million Additional Individuals Enrolled in Medicaid as of December 2014

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/blog/2015/02/medicaid-chip-enrollment-december.html>

WHITE HOUSE UPDATES ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND HEALTHCARE.GOV

Blog post from Tuesday, March 03

Title: The Faces of Health Care: Lori S.

Link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/03/03/faces-health-care-lori-s>

Blog post from Monday, March 02

Title: The Faces of Health Care: Jason T.

Link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/12/09/faces-health-care-jason-t>

-CMS Office of Communications, Partner Relations Group