



January 15, 2015

Champions for Coverage:

Happy New Year! We are off to a great start in January! Today is an important deadline. It is the last day to enroll in or change plans for new coverage to start on February, 2016. However, consumers still have until January 31, 2016 to sign up for coverage. We encourage you to leverage social media and other resources to get these important dates out to consumers!

This issue provides the latest Marketplace Open Enrollment Week 10 snap shot (including state and locality breakdowns), updated materials, and new Tax and ACA announcements. We want to hear from you! Please email us and share your success stories. We are also taking topics for future webinars. Success stories and webinar requests can be sent to Champion@cms.hhs.gov.

- I. New: Consumer-Facing Outreach Materials from CMS**
- II. Reminder: January Champion Webinar: Getting Ready for the Tax Season**
- III. Updated: HHS Partnership Center Webinars**
- IV. New: The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign Planning an Effective Media Strategy for 2016 Webinar**
- V. Reminder: Health Insurance Marketplaces 2016 Open Enrollment Period: January Enrollment Report**
- VI. New: Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment Snapshot Week 10: January 3, 2016 – January 9, 2016**
- VII. Reminder: Monthly Medicaid Enrollment Report - October 2015**
- VIII. New: Tax Updates 1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-Cs**
- IX. New: Blog: Getting Ready for Tax Season**
- X. Social Media Updates**
- XI. Blog Posts and Press Releases**

NEW/UPDATED CONTENT AND WEBINARS

**Reminder: January Champion Webinar:
Getting Ready for the Tax Season**

The Champion program is inviting you to join the CMS National Training Program Webinar: Getting Ready for the Tax Season **on January 20th from 2:00-3:00pm EST.**

This webinar presented by CMS and the IRS will explain the tax implications of the premium tax credits available in the Health Insurance Marketplace, the fees for not having minimal essential coverage, related forms, and more. Please click here to RSVP:

<https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1066428>

New: Consumer-Facing Outreach Materials from CMS

Check out these recently-released CMS outreach materials. Partners interested in ordering CMS publications should visit the [CMS Product Ordering website](#).

New materials are being updated and will be posted to Marketplace.cms.gov

New materials:

5 Steps to Staying Covered Through the Marketplace Fact Sheet:

<https://marketplace.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/5-steps-fact-sheet.pdf>

Videos for Faith ACA Outreach Now Available: Three videos have been produced for faith communities to explain open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace. The videos feature [Latino faith and community leaders](#) as well as featuring [African American leaders](#). A multi-faith video highlights [Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Protestant faith leaders](#). Please share on social media and in other appropriate venues.

Bilingual video PSAs available: The videos feature Elianne Ramos, Principal and CEO of Speak Hispanic Communications, and Jose Plaza, National Director for Latino Engagement at Enroll America. These are 30-second videos (in English and Spanish) remind consumers to enroll by January 31, 2016.

#GetCovered before January 31

CMSHHSgov Channel URL: <https://youtu.be/l7w5rMuEuN0> use: <http://go.cms.gov/B4Jan31>

HealthCare.gov Channel URL: <https://youtu.be/zd0YkigUtGQ> use:

<http://go.cms.gov/EnrollJan31>

#Asegurate antes del 31 de enero

CMSHHSgov Channel URL: https://youtu.be/d5UBcal_7k4 use: <http://go.cms.gov/31Enero>

HealthCare.gov Channel URL: https://youtu.be/_4UxDZap6SI use:

<http://go.cms.gov/31Enero2016>

Updated: HHS Partnership Center Webinars

CMS and the HHS Partnership Center have updated webinars on the health care law for faith and other community organizations. To RSVP, please click on the title of the webinar and submit the requested information.

[How to Enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace](#)

January 20 at 3:00 pm EST

(2:00 pm CST, 1:00 pm MST, Noon PST)

Open enrollment closes on January 31. Learn how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace, key websites and resources on the law. Questions will be answered at the end of the webinar.

[Your Money, Your Goals Webinar](#)

January 21 at 1:00 pm EST

(Noon CST, 11:00 am MST, 10:00 am PST)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has new tools available to help people strengthen their financial skills. Many people want to purchase items important for their health and well-being, but think they can't afford it. This webinar will highlight a new consumer toolkit with information on how to set goals, save and plan for purchases as well as track and manage income and spending. Tools and strategies for people with limited incomes will be shared.

[Connecting Kids to Coverage](#)

[February 11 at 3:00 pm ET](#)

(2:00 pm CT, 1:00 pm MT, Noon PT)

Children and teenagers in your congregation or community may qualify for free or low-cost health insurance coverage through [Medicaid](#) and the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#). Many parents may be eligible for Medicaid as well. Learn about the nationwide effort to identify children and youth eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and get them enrolled.

New: The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign Planning an Effective Media Strategy for 2016 Webinar

The Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign is looking forward to another year of providing partners and grantees with strategic and actionable support to carry-out their Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) outreach and enrollment objectives. Over the years, organizations have been able to utilize Campaign materials and resources to bolster their efforts in traditional and non-traditional ways—and that trend will continue in 2016! We invite you to join a Campaign webinar to learn more on how to develop an effective media strategy to support your outreach and enrollment efforts in 2016, with a specific focus on social media strategy.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Join us on **Thursday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. EST** for the next Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign webinar.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Reminder: Health Insurance Marketplaces 2016 Open Enrollment Period: January Enrollment Report

HHS announced that **more than 11.3 million** people are signed up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nationwide, almost **4 million people under 35** are signed up for Marketplace coverage through Dec 26. Of those, **nearly 3 million of them are ages 18 to 34**. That's more than a quarter of all plan selections.

The report demonstrates that Marketplace consumers are actively engaged in shopping and choosing the best plan for them. Among the 8.2 million reenrolling customers nationwide as of Dec 26, **more than half (4.2 million) came back, reviewed their information and actively selected a Marketplace plan**. About **60 percent** of people who actively reenrolled in HealthCare.gov states, or 2.2 million people, switched to a different plan than they had for 2015 coverage.

The report with state by state data tables is live here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/health-insurance-marketplaces-2016-open-enrollment-period-january-enrollment-report>

The press release is live here: <http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/01/07/11-million-individuals-nationwide-are-signed-up-through-the-health-insurance-marketplaces.html>

New: Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment Snapshot Week 10: January 3, 2016 – January 9, 2016

Since Open Enrollment began on November 1, nearly 8.7 million consumers signed-up for health coverage through the HealthCare.gov platform or had their coverage automatically renewed. This week's snapshot includes weekly and cumulative data for enrollment through HealthCare.gov, a breakdown of cumulative data for 38 states using the HealthCare.gov platform, and for the first time this Open Enrollment, cumulative data for certain local areas.

"Consumers have only two days left before the January 15 deadline to sign up for coverage starting February 1," HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell said. "We saw unprecedented demand for January 1st coverage and continue to make steady progress signing up new customers as open enrollment proceeds. We are focused on educating customers about the affordable options at HealthCare.gov and providing them the help they need to make the best coverage choices."

Similar to last year, each week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will release weekly Open Enrollment snapshots for the HealthCare.gov platform, which is used by the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces and State Partnership Marketplaces, as well as some State-based Marketplaces. These snapshots provide point-in-time estimates of weekly plan selections, call center activity and visits to [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.cuidadoDESalud.gov). The final number of plan selections associated with enrollment activity to date could fluctuate as plan changes or cancellations occur, such as in response to life changes like starting a new job or getting married. In addition, the weekly snapshot only looks at plan selections and does not include the number of consumers who paid their premiums to effectuate their enrollment.

HHS will continue to produce more detailed reports that look at plan selections across the Federally-facilitated Marketplace and State-based Marketplaces later in the Open Enrollment period.

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

Federal Marketplace Snapshot

Federal Marketplace Snapshot	Week 10 Jan 3 – Jan 9	Cumulative Nov 1 – Jan 9
Plan Selections (net)	74,239	8,682,471
Applications Submitted (Number of Consumers)	253,565	11,066,884
Call Center Volume	830,465	10,397,132
Average Call Center Wait Time	1 minute 21 seconds	10 minutes 33 seconds
Calls with Spanish Speaking Representative	63,777	619,274
Average Wait for Spanish Speaking Rep	9 seconds	20 seconds
HealthCare.gov Users	1,970,588	21,283,462
CuidadoDeSalud.gov Users	148,444	1,079,026
Window Shopping HealthCare.gov Users	503,652	7,491,314
Window Shopping CuidadoDeSalud.gov Users	10,110	147,314

HealthCare.gov State-by-State Snapshot

Consumers across the country continued to explore their health insurance options by reaching out to a call center representative at 1-800-318-2596, attending enrollment events in their local communities, or visiting [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.cuidadoDESalud.gov). Individual plan selections for the states using the HealthCare.gov platform include:

Week 10	Cumulative Plan Selections Nov 1 – Jan 9
Alabama	179,115
Alaska	21,671
Arizona	176,089
Arkansas	66,635
Delaware	26,698
Florida	1,583,088
Georgia	522,895
Hawaii	11,949
Illinois	348,932
Indiana	183,185
Iowa	50,083
Kansas	89,229
Louisiana	193,249
Maine	78,891
Michigan	325,200
Mississippi	96,984
Missouri	260,798
Montana	55,474
Nebraska	80,128
Nevada	77,411
New Hampshire	51,048
New Jersey	262,400
New Mexico	48,385
North Carolina	563,830
North Dakota	20,046
Ohio	226,156
Oklahoma	130,700
Oregon	134,629
Pennsylvania	411,675
South Carolina	203,634
South Dakota	23,320
Tennessee	238,945
Texas	1,120,440
Utah	153,222

Virginia	390,029
West Virginia	34,827
Wisconsin	220,260
Wyoming	21,221

HealthCare.gov Local Market Snapshot

The Week 10 snapshot includes, for the first time this Open Enrollment, a look at plan section by Designated Market Areas (DMAs) which are local media markets. This data provides another level of detail to better understand total plan selections within local communities. Some DMAs include one or more counties in a state that is not using the HealthCare.gov platform in 2016. Plan selections for those DMAs only include data for the portions of these areas that are using the HealthCare.gov platform, so the cumulative totals in the snapshot do not represent plan selections for the entire DMA. In addition, some DMAs cross into multiple states that use the HealthCare.gov platform and those totals are cumulative for all HealthCare.gov states in that DMA. Because some communities do not fall into a DMA, cumulative plan selections for local markets will not total the national cumulative plan selection number.

Local Markets in HealthCare.gov States	State	Cumulative Plan Selections Nov 1 – Jan 9
Abilene-Sweetwater	Texas	9,364
Albany	Georgia	14,939
Albuquerque-Santa Fe	New Mexico	41,433
Alexandria	Louisiana	8,770
Alpena	Michigan	1,941
Amarillo	Texas	13,279
Anchorage	Alaska	13,942
Atlanta	Georgia	394,458
Augusta	Georgia	29,967
Austin	Texas	112,628
Bangor	Maine	22,144
Baton Rouge	Louisiana	41,186
Beaumont-Port Arthur	Texas	13,541
Bend	Oregon	9,967

Billings	Montana	15,640
Biloxi-Gulfport	Mississippi	8,802
Birmingham (Ann and Tusc)	Alabama	70,898
Bluefield-Beckley-Oak Hill	West Virginia	7,391
Boise	Idaho	875
Boston (Manchester)	Massachusetts	40,712
Buffalo	New York	1,217
Burlington-Plattsburgh	Vermont	4,818
Butte-Bozeman	Montana	9,264
Casper-Riverton	Wyoming	4,604
Cedar Rapids-Wtrlo-lwc & Dub	Iowa	15,251
Champaign & Sprngfld-Decatur	Illinois	22,852
Charleston	South Carolina	41,274
Charleston-Huntington	West Virginia	16,116
Charlotte	North Carolina	189,940
Charlottesville	Virginia	15,145
Chattanooga	Tennessee	36,393
Cheyenne-Scottsbluf	Wyoming	6,038
Chicago	Illinois	278,687
Cincinnati	Ohio	44,946
Clarksburg-Weston	West Virginia	5,737
Cleveland-Akron (Canton)	Ohio	81,207
Columbia	South Carolina	39,227
Columbia-Jefferson City	Missouri	20,853
Columbus	Georgia	18,677
Columbus	Ohio	44,189
Columbus-Tupelo-West Point	Mississippi	12,678
Corpus Christi	Texas	17,604
Dallas-Ft. Worth	Texas	333,105
Davenport-R. Island-Moline	Iowa/Illinois	16,188
Dayton	Ohio	21,450
Denver	Colorado	6,705
Des Moines-Ames	Iowa	18,680
Detroit	Michigan	168,624
Dothan	Alabama	8,962
Duluth-Superior	Minnesota	6,535

El Paso (Las Cruces)	Texas	56,719
Elmira (Corning)	New York	1,149
Erie	New York	8,425
Eugene	Oregon	18,871
Evansville	Indiana	14,057
Fairbanks	Alaska	2,660
Fargo-Valley City	North Dakota	10,393
Flint-Saginaw-Bay City	Michigan	29,645
Ft. Myers-Naples	Florida	84,257
Ft. Smith-Fay-Sprngdl-Rgrs	Arkansas	21,599
Ft. Wayne	Indiana	21,401
Gainesville	Florida	18,136
Glendive	Montana	530
Grand Rapids-Kalmzoo-B.Crk	Michigan	65,950
Great Falls	Montana	7,695
Green Bay-Appleton	Wisconsin	49,004
Greensboro-H.Point-W.Salem	North Carolina	101,278
Greenville-N.Bern-Washngtn	North Carolina	40,539
Greenvll-Spart-Ashevll-And	North Carolina	110,013
Greenwood-Greenville	Mississippi	6,780
Harlingen-Wslco-Brnsvl-Mca	Texas	48,639
Harrisburg-Lncstr-Leb-York	Pennsylvania	59,028
Harrisonburg	Virginia	11,652
Hattiesburg-Laurel	Mississippi	10,713
Helena	Montana	2,581
Honolulu	Hawaii	11,949
Houston	Texas	298,346
Huntsville-Decatur	Alabama	35,878
Idaho Falls-Pocatello	Idaho	2,711
Indianapolis	Indiana	83,652
Jackson	Mississippi	38,558
Jackson	Tennessee	10,827
Jacksonville	Florida	94,591
Johnstown-Altoona	Pennsylvania	18,691
Jonesboro	Arkansas	5,419
Joplin-Pittsburg	Missouri	14,679

Juneau	Alaska	3,010
Kansas City	Kansas/Missouri	98,082
Knoxville	Tennessee	47,986
La Crosse-Eau Claire	Wisconsin	23,137
Lafayette	Indiana	3,102
Lafayette	Louisiana	24,003
Lake Charles	Louisiana	6,591
Lansing	Michigan	14,667
Laredo	Texas	12,225
Las Vegas	Nevada	54,593
Lima	Ohio	1,571
Lincoln & Hastings-Krny	Nebraska	35,750
Little Rock-Pine Bluff	Arkansas	32,178
Louisville	Kentucky	8,392
Lubbock	Texas	12,182
Macon	Georgia	21,213
Madison	Wisconsin	32,594
Marquette	Michigan	9,300
Medford-Klamath Falls	Oregon	13,730
Memphis	Tennessee	56,059
Meridian	Mississippi	3,875
Miami-Ft. Lauderdale	Florida	588,183
Milwaukee	Wisconsin	79,557
Minneapolis-St. Paul	Minnesota	10,795
Minot-Bismarck-Dickinson	North Dakota	11,302
Missoula	Montana	19,701
Mobile-Pensacola (Ft Walt)	Alabama	61,110
Monroe-El Dorado	Louisiana/Arkansas	19,782
Montgomery-Selma	Alabama	18,961
Myrtle Beach-Florence	Florida	38,001
Nashville	Tennessee	95,498
New Orleans	Louisiana	79,984
New York	New York	207,404
Norfolk-Portsmouth-Newport News	Virginia	75,197
North Platte	Nebraska	1,602
Odessa-Midland	Texas	11,345

Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	66,171
Omaha	Nebraska	35,793
Orlando-Daytona Bch-Melbrn	Florida	294,236
Ottumwa-Kirksville	Missouri	3,547
Paducah-Cape Girard-Harsbg	Illinois/Kentucky/Missouri	20,183
Panama City	Florida	20,405
Parkersburg	West Virginia	2,965
Peoria-Bloomington	Illinois	12,530
Philadelphia	Pennsylvania	275,638
Phoenix (Prescott)	Arizona	125,265
Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania	76,399
Portland	Oregon	87,649
Portland-Auburn	Maine	57,848
Presque Isle	Maine	4,035
Quincy-Hannibal-Keokuk	Illinois/Missouri/Iowa	7,059
Raleigh-Durham (Fayetvllle)	North Carolina	150,939
Rapid City	South Dakota	7,162
Reno	Nevada	21,251
Richmond-Petersburg	Virginia	72,720
Roanoke-Lynchburg	Virginia	49,112
Rochestr-Mason City-Austin	Minnesota/Iowa	1,317
Rockford	Illinois	12,270
Salisbury	Maryland	6,897
Salt Lake City	Utah	153,763
San Angelo	Texas	4,307
San Antonio	Texas	101,863
Savannah	Georgia	43,716
Sherman-Ada	Texas	8,850
Shreveport	Louisiana	33,634
Sioux City	Iowa	9,748
Sioux Falls(Mitchell)	South Dakota	17,460
South Bend-Elkhart	Indiana	23,907
Spokane	Washington	1,283
Springfield	Missouri	51,653
St. Joseph	Missouri	3,685
St. Louis	Missouri	120,460

Tallahassee-Thomasville	Florida	25,185
Tampa-St. Pete (Sarasota)	Florida	260,266
Terre Haute	Indiana	9,440
Toledo	Ohio	17,735
Topeka	Kansas	11,443
Traverse City-Cadillac	Michigan	24,968
Tri-Cities	Tennessee	24,187
Tucson (Sierra Vista)	Arizona	29,979
Tulsa	Oklahoma	45,241
Tyler-Longview(Lfkn&Ncgd)	Texas	22,045
Victoria	Texas	2,030
Waco-Temple-Bryan	Texas	24,708
Washington, DC (Hagerstown)		167,238
Wausau-Rhineland	Wisconsin	20,275
West Palm Beach-Ft. Pierce	Florida	176,371
Wheeling-Steubenville	Ohio	6,687
Wichita Falls & Lawton	Texas	9,680
Wichita-Hutchinson Plus	Kansas	34,056
Wilkes Barre-Scranton	Pennsylvania	44,090
Wilmington	Delaware	31,485
Yakima-Pasco-RchInd-Knnwck	Oregon	1,710
Youngstown	Ohio	13,804
Yuma-El Centro	Arizona	3,313
Zanesville	Ohio	1,196

Reminder: Monthly Medicaid Enrollment Report - October 2015

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted the monthly Medicaid enrollment report for October 2015. The Medicaid & CHIP: October 2015 Monthly Applications, Eligibility Determinations and Enrollment Report (December 30, 2015) and data was posted on the Medicaid and CHIP Application, Eligibility Determination, and Enrollment Data web page at <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>.

This monthly report on state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data represents state Medicaid and CHIP agencies' eligibility activity for the calendar month of October 2015.

TAX UPDATES

New: Tax Updates 1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-Cs

Like last year, assisters can help consumers who enrolled in coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces and received advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) understand the [Form 1095-A](#) that they receive from the Marketplace. Consumers must use the Form 1095-A to complete [Form 8962](#) when they file their taxes. These forms allow consumers to reconcile the total APTC they received during 2015 with the amount of [premium tax credit \(PTC\)](#) for which they are eligible based on their final 2015 income and household information. **Additionally, like last year, assisters may not provide assistance with filing taxes,** unless you are also a licensed tax preparer.

Update: [New Forms 1095-B and 1095-C](#)

This year, some consumers will receive Forms [1095-B](#) or [1095-C](#). Like Form 1095-A, Forms 1095-B and C will provide consumers with information about their health coverage during the prior year. Consumers who have health coverage through the Marketplace and receive a Form 1095-A might also receive a Form 1095-B or Form 1095-C if they or members of their household had coverage in 2015 through other programs or plans outside of the Marketplace. **Individuals who have questions about a Form 1095-B or 1095-C should contact the entity that provided them with the form.**

Forms 1095-C will be provided to consumers by certain large employers. Forms 1095-B will be provided to consumers by health insurance providers, such as health insurance companies and government agencies including Medicare, Medicaid or CHIP. Insurance issuers and carriers aren't required to file Form 1095-B to report coverage in individual market qualified health plans that individuals enroll in through Health Insurance Marketplaces. This coverage generally is reported by Marketplaces on Form 1095-A. However, health insurance issuers will file Form 1095-B to report on coverage for employees obtained through the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP).

([Click here](#) to view an IRS Q&A with more information about who will receive Forms 1095).

Note that while the deadline for the Marketplace to provide Form 1095-A is February 1, 2016, the deadline for insurers, other coverage providers, and certain employers to provide Forms 1095-B and 1095-C has been extended to March 31, 2016. Consumers expecting to receive a Form 1095-A should wait to file their 2015 income tax return until they receive that form, but it is not necessary to wait for Forms 1095-B or 1095-C in order to file.

[Click here](#) to view the IRS Q&A that offers more about new tax forms related to the health care law, including when consumers will receive these forms, how they should use them, and who will provide them.

New: Blog: Getting Ready for Tax Season

January 8

By Kevin Counihan, CEO HealthCare.gov

As we settle in to the New Year, many Americans are already keeping an eye on their mailbox for tax forms. January means tax season is just around the corner. As you begin to make a plan for gathering the information you need to file your taxes, it's important to remember that, just like last year, information about your health coverage is now a part of the tax filing process.

Having health insurance when you can afford it is the law. If you had coverage in 2015 – either through the Health Insurance Marketplace or another source like your employer, Medicare or Medicaid – you'll need to indicate that when you file your tax return. If you could have afforded health insurance, but you chose not to enroll in coverage for 2015, you may be required to [pay a fee](#) when you file your federal income tax return.

To help you get a head start on planning for tax season, here's what people with different health coverage situations need to know:

What you should know if you have Marketplace coverage.

If you enrolled in a health plan through HealthCare.gov or your state's Health Insurance Marketplace in 2015, you'll soon receive an important tax document in the mail, called a Form 1095-A. Your 1095-A includes important information you need in order to complete your 2015 Federal income tax return. You should wait to file your income tax return until you receive this document in the mail. It should arrive by early February. When it arrives, keep it with your other tax records, like the W-2 you get from your employer.

If you are one of the millions of Americans who benefitted from financial help to lower the cost of your monthly health insurance premiums, you are required to file a tax return and report the amount of financial assistance you received. Now that you know your final income for the year, you need to reconcile the difference between the amount of financial assistance you received during the year to help lower the cost of your premiums with the actual amount you should have received based on your 2015 earnings. Information included on your Form 1095-A will help you do this. If you do not file a tax return and reconcile your financial help, you will not be eligible to receive financial help in the future.

What you should know if you have health insurance through your employer, Medicare or Medicaid.

If you and everyone in your household had coverage for the entire year through your employer, Medicare, Medicaid or [other qualifying coverage from another source](#), you'll simply need to check a box on your federal income tax return to indicate that you had coverage for all of 2015. You might receive a tax document called a Form 1095-B or a Form 1095-C in the mail from your employer, your insurance company, or the government program that provides your coverage, like Medicare or Medicaid. You don't need to attach this information to your tax return or wait to receive the form before

filling your tax return out, but if you receive one this year you should keep it in a safe place with your other tax records.

What you should know if you didn't have health coverage in 2015.

If you didn't have health coverage for all or part of 2015, you either will have to pay a fee with your federal income tax return or will need to qualify for a health coverage exemption.

- **Pay the fee:** If affordable health insurance options were available, but you chose to not enroll in coverage for 2015 and you do not qualify for an exemption, you may be required to [pay a fee when you file](#) your 2015 federal income taxes. The fee for not having health coverage in 2015 is generally \$325 per person or 2 percent of your annual household income – whichever is higher.
- **Qualify for an exemption:** While those who can afford health coverage but chose not to enroll may have to pay a fee, people who couldn't afford coverage or met other conditions can receive an exemption from the requirement to purchase health insurance for 2015. A [tool is available](#) on HealthCare.gov to help you determine if you might qualify for an exemption.

It's important that everyone knows the fee for not having coverage is increasing this year. If people go without coverage in 2016, the fee you'll have to pay next year will increase to \$695 or 2.5 percent of your income – whichever is higher.

The good news is Open Enrollment for 2016 coverage through HealthCare.gov is happening now and runs through January 31. If you need coverage and want to avoid paying a fee next year, you must sign up for coverage before the January 31 deadline. If you do not purchase coverage for the remainder of 2016, you'll risk having to pay the fee next year for the entire year when you file your 2016 income taxes.

Help is available. If you have questions about Marketplace tax forms, qualifying for exemptions, the fee, or signing up for coverage through HealthCare.gov you should contact the Marketplace Call Center. The call center is open all day, every day at 1-800-318-2596. Additional resources and information is also available www.healthcare.gov/taxes or www.IRS.gov/aca.

Blog link (Español): <http://blog.cms.gov/2016/01/08/preparese-para-la-temporada-de-impuestos/>

Blog link (English): <http://blog.cms.gov/2016/01/08/getting-ready-for-tax-season/>

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

New Year/Holidays

- Find affordable health coverage to start the New Year! <http://go.cms.gov/EnrollJan31>
#GetCovered @healthcaregov
 - Encuentra un seguro de salud para empezar el #AñoNuevo #Asegúrate en @CuidadoDeSalud <http://go.cms.gov/31Enero2016>
- The clock is ticking! Visit @healthcaregov and start the New Year right with 2016 coverage. #GetCovered <http://go.cms.gov/B4Jan31>
 - ¡El tiempo corre! Viste @CuidadoDeSalud y empieza bien el #AñoNuevo con seguro de salud. <http://go.cms.gov/31Enero> #Asegúrate
- Make an important investment in your health for the New Year @healthcaregov <http://go.cms.gov/B4Jan31>
 - Invierte en tu salud este #AñoNuevo. #Asegúrate en @CuidadoDeSalud <http://go.cms.gov/31Enero2016>
- Most people qualify for financial help. Explore your options to #GetCovered @healthcaregov <http://go.cms.gov/B4Jan31>
 - La mayoría de personas califican para ayuda financiera. Explora tus opciones. #Asegúrate @CuidadoDeSalud <http://go.cms.gov/31Enero>
- Find the 2016 plan that fits your budget and needs. <http://go.cms.gov/EnrollJan31>
#GetCovered
 - Encuentra un seguro de salud para el 2016 que se ajuste a tu presupuesto y necesidades. <http://go.cms.gov/31Enero> #Asegúrate

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

Blog Posts: On the Road for Open Enrollment Following HHS Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell's travels around the country.

<https://medium.com/@HHSGov/on-the-road-for-open-enrollment-fe01a8b48358#.fm4pagep8>

Blog Post from Thursday, January 14

Title: Attention: Beware of email scam

Link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/beware-healthcare-phishing-scam/>

Blog Post from Thursday, January 14

Title: Manuel's #GetCovered Story: Staying Healthy for his Son

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2016/01/14/manuels-getcovered-story-staying-healthy-for-his-son.html#>

Blog Post from Wednesday, January 13

Title: Joelisa Castillo's #GetCovered Story: Taking Care of Her Health for her Daughter

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2016/01/13/joelisa-castillos-getcovered-story.html>

Blog Post from Monday, January 11

Title: Bottom Line: Mammograms are Still Covered

Link: <http://www.hhs.gov/blog/2016/01/11/bottom-line-mammograms-are-still-covered.html>

Blog post from Monday, January 11

Title: Can helping patients' social needs also be good for their health?

Link: <http://blog.cms.gov/2016/01/11/can-helping-patients-social-needs-also-be-good-for-their-health/>

Blog post from Monday, January 11

Title: Encouraging Investment in Medicaid Information Technology

Link: <http://blog.cms.gov/2016/01/11/encouraging-investment-in-medicaid-information-technology/>

Blog Post from Friday, January 8

Title: Make a healthy choice in 2016 with a Marketplace health insurance plan

Link: <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/enroll-by-january-31-for-2016-coverage/>

Blog post from Friday, January 8

Title: Getting Ready for Tax Season

Link: <http://blog.cms.gov/2016/01/08/getting-ready-for-tax-season/>

-CMS Office of Communications, Partner Relations Group