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# HHS Region IV ACA News Bulletin: Friday, June 21st, 2013

Visit [HealthCare.Gov](http://HealthCare.Gov) and [CuidadodeSalud.Gov](http://CuidadodeSalud.Gov), two consumer-focused health care websites to: **find insurance options, compare care quality, and learn about the law**. How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

## Secretary's Corner

\* **June 19, 2013**

Secretary Sebelius wrote a blog post about the opening of the New Health Insurance Marketplace. "When open enrollment in the new Health Insurance Marketplace begins on October 1, millions of Americans will be able to shop for quality health care coverage that meets their needs and their budget. Every health insurance plan in the new Marketplace will offer needed benefits, from doctor visits to medications to hospitalizations. Consumers will be able to compare insurance options based on price, quality, and other features in plain language that makes sense." View full blog post [here](#).

## Affordable Care Act News

\* **June 20, 2013**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that "nationwide, 77.8 million consumers saved \$3.4 billion up front on their premiums as insurance companies operated more efficiently. Additionally, consumers nationwide will save \$500 million in rebates, with 8.5 million enrollees due to receive an average rebate of around \$100 per family." View full statement [here](#).

\* **June 19, 2013**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted online the Guidance on State Alternative Applications for Health Coverage. The guidance outlines how State-based Marketplaces (SBMs), as well as Medicaid and CHIP agencies, may choose to use the model single, streamlined application developed by HHS, or may develop an alternative single, streamlined application that is approved by CMS. View the guidance [here](#).

## Educational Materials

*Below you'll find materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.*

### Health Insurance Marketplace

*For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace including official resources, research, news, and events visit <http://marketplace.cms.gov/>*

### Marketplace Updates

*For information on how to sign up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including text message and email updates visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/index.html>*

### State by State Fact Sheets

*Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act, <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/index.html>*