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To:
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Region IV News Bulletin: Monday, March 31, 2014

Visit HHS.gov/Healthcare and 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](#).

Affordable Care Act News

✱ March 28, 2014

A new security risk assessment (SRA) tool to help guide health care providers in small to medium sized offices conduct risk assessments of their organizations is now available from HHS. The SRA tool is the result of a collaborative effort by the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The tool is designed to help practices conduct and document a risk assessment in a thorough, organized fashion at their own pace by allowing them to assess the information security risks in their organizations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule. The application, available for downloading at www.HealthIT.gov/security-risk-assessment also produces a report that can be provided to auditors.

✱ March 26, 2014

LGBT Health Awareness Week is an important time to bring attention to the unique health needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans and to highlight the progress we've made in our work to ensure LGBT Americans have the same rights and protections as other Americans, especially through implementation of the Affordable Care Act. It's critical for the LGBT community and all Americans to remember that Monday, March 31 is the last day of open enrollment and those who miss out can't get covered through the Marketplace until 2015. Read more about the ACA and the LGBT community [here](#).

✱ March 26, 2014

The deadline for open enrollment is March 31st. As the Administration said previously, those consumers who are in line by the March 31st deadline to complete enrollment, we will make sure you get covered. Just like Election Day, if you are in line when the polls close, you get to vote. We won't close the door on those who tried to get covered and were unable to do so through no fault of their own. So, those who were in line or had technical problems with the website can quickly come back and sign up as soon as possible. Additionally, CMS also is clarifying that under limited circumstances, people with complex cases may qualify for a special enrollment period.

These special cases are for specific situations where a consumer was not able to successfully complete enrollment during the open enrollment period despite their efforts to do so and through no fault of their own. Listed below are a series of resources to assist you:

Guidance for Issuers on People "In Line": <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/in-line-SEP-3-26-2014.pdf>

Guidance for Issuers on Complex Cases: <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/complex-cases-SEP-3-26-2014.pdf>

Assister Tips In Line: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/help-us/assisting-consumers-march-31.pdf>

Assister Tips Complex Cases: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/help-us/complex-cases-sep.pdf>

The consumer fact sheet is posted here: <http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/sep-complex-cases.pdf>

✱ March 26, 2014

The Department of Treasury posted a fact sheet today about domestic abuse and its tax implications for the Affordable Care Act. The Treasury Domestic Violence fact sheet is posted [here](#).

✱ March 25, 2014

The IRS recently updated their website with new public information about the tax provisions in the Affordable Care Act. You can visit the [IRS webpage](#) for more information.

Below is a listing of webpages that may be of particular interest:

Individual Shared Responsibility

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision>

Examples of how someone would calculate the payment based on their income

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/ACA-Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision-Calculating-the-Payment>

Exemptions

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/ACA-Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision-Exemptions>

Minimum Essential Coverage

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/ACA-Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision-Minimum-Essential-Coverage>

Updated Employer Shared Responsibility information

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Questions-and-Answers-on-Employer-Shared-Responsibility-Provisions-Under-the-Affordable-Care-Act>

Master Q&A page

<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Affordable-Care-Act-Tax-Provisions-Questions-and-Answers>

Health Care Blog Posts

✱ March 27, 2014

As we enter the final days of this historic open enrollment period, more than 6 million Americans have signed up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces since October 1, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. There's still time to get covered before the March 31st deadline, but you need to act now. You can read more about the various ways you can get covered [here](#).

✱ March 27, 2014

As this historic open enrollment period enters its final days, more than 6 million Americans have signed up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces since October 1, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Those looking to get covered before the March 31st deadline still have time by visiting [HealthCare.gov](#) or by phone at 1-800-318-2596/TTY 1-855-889-4325. You can also find help in your community at [localhelp.healthcare.gov](#). You can read more about the 6 million Americans that have signed up for health coverage [here](#).

✱ March 26, 2014

Open Enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace ends in only 5 days. There are just 5 days left for consumers to apply for and enroll in quality, affordable coverage. If you don't have health insurance and don't begin to sign up by the deadline—you can't get coverage again until next year. This blog, authored by Julie Bataille, Director of Communications at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services is available [here](#).

✱ March 24, 2014

If you have not yet had the opportunity to enroll into a health care plan, there are only 7 days left. But don't panic, there are various ways you can get covered. Don't delay your enrollment. Read about your options [here](#).

✱ March 24, 2014

Since October 1, more than 5 million people have signed up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. People from all across the country have been telling us their #GetCovered stories and what it means to them. Here's how they describe what coverage means to them.

Remember, there are only 7 days left until the end of the March 31st deadline to sign up for coverage. Don't delay! Sign up at [HealthCare.gov](#) today! Read 7 Reaction to Getting Covered [here](#).

White House Health Care Blog Posts

✧ March 28, 2014

In today's blog, ***I'm a Republic, and You Should Get Covered*** posted by Dr. Mark. D. Bearden from Monroe, North Carolina, shares his story about how important having health coverage is to him and seeks to encourage others that have not yet signed up to visit [healthcare.gov](#) and sign up today. Read Dr. Bearden's blog [here](#).

✧ March 28, 2014

8 out of 10 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are eligible for financial assistance through the Health Insurance Marketplace. And in order to ensure AAPIs are able to take advantage of the benefits of the ACA, you must complete your marketplace application before the upcoming March 31st deadline. Through this blog, ***Urging the AAPI Community to #GetCovered by March 31***, not only will you receive information on where you can go to enroll into a marketplace plan, but you will also be able to read stories of other individuals that have been able to find health coverage that's affordable and that meets their health care needs. You can read the entire blog [here](#).

✧ March 27, 2014

With four days left to sign up for health insurance, the White House joined the BuzzFeed Community by laying out seven reasons why Vice President Biden thinks you should get covered. You can access the ***7 Reasons Why Vice President Biden Think You Should Get Covered*** [here](#).

✧ March 27, 2014

As part of #GeeksGetCovered, launched by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Gail Peace, a health-care entrepreneur shares her story about being a healthcare geek, and the impact the ACA has had on helping her focus on making the healthcare industry even better. You can read the entire blog [here](#).

✧ March 26, 2014

As part of LGBT Awareness Week, Dr. Biden met with LGBT Americans that have benefited from the Affordable Care Act. In this blog, you will be able to read about their struggles with their health before they had health insurance as well as the positive impact having health care has had on their lives. You can read the blog [here](#).

✧ March 26, 2014

President Obama continues to urge Americans to sign up for a health care plan before the March 31st deadline through this blog entitled, ***The President Wants You to Get Covered Today: "Don't Just Think About It, Just Do It"***. You can read the blog and watch the President's message [here](#).

✧ March 25, 2014

Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, authored a blog to help and encourage Asian American and Pacific Islanders to #GetCovered during AAPI Enrollment Week of Action. You can read Dr. Koh's blog and have access to the many resources contained within the blog [here](#).

✧ March 24, 2014

As part of National Tribal Day of Action for Affordable Care Act Enrollment over 65 events were held in tribal communities across the nation. As part of President Obama's goal to ensure that every American Indian and Alaska Native have the information they need to take advantage of new health care options available under the health care law, this week was coordinated to meet that goal. You can read a blog commemorating National Tribal Day of Action for the Affordable Care Act Enrollment, authored by David Agnew, The Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House. [here](#).

✧ March 24, 2014

David Perry, an Oregon-based mechanical engineer, and a self-described "maker", David is working to develop useful applications for inexpensive 3D printing. One project of his is an open-source "F-F-Fiddle," a fully 3D printable electronic violin. David recently enrolled through the Marketplaces, and with the security of affordable, quality health coverage, he has decided to begin working full-time for the startup he founded, OpenFab PDX, which focuses on low-cost digital design and manufacturing tools. Read David's story [here](#).

✧ March 24, 2014

The President Answers Questions about Health Care from the Quora Community. You can read this blog with the question and the President's answers [here](#).

✧ March 21, 2014

In this YouTube video, "Things to do in your 20's" several young actors talk about the importance of signing up for health care before the upcoming March 31st deadline. You can watch the video [here](#).

Educational Materials

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

Info-Grpahics

View all our **Flickr Info-Graphs** page [here](#).

American Indians and Alaska Natives ACA Info-graphic by the Office of Minority Health – you can access the info-graphic [here](#).

Public Service Announcement/Address

* March 21, 2014

Another Funny or Die with Adam Scott video was released this week. This video, titled "A Message from Step Brothers' " follows an actor as he dismisses the importance of health insurance. As the story line follows him through his points of view on not having health care, he has an accident and requires medical attention. At that point, the audience is reminded about the importance of having health coverage, especially because you never know when an accident can happen. You can view the clip [here](#).

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>