

## How to talk about the Health Care Law In Your Community

The following provides three different ways you and those in your community can communicate the importance of having health insurance and access to health care.

### Top Points that People in your Community Need to Know

**It's time to get covered.** If you – or someone you know – needs health insurance, now is your chance to sign up for quality and affordable coverage. Open Enrollment only happens once each year. This year's Open Enrollment runs from November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017. Don't miss your chance to get covered.

**December 15th is the deadline to sign up for coverage that starts on January 1, 2017.** If you want to start the New Year with coverage, *you must sign up by December 15.*

**Financial help is available.** More than 8 out of 10 people who enroll in health coverage through [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) qualify for financial help to make their monthly premiums more affordable. Most people can find low-premium plans available for \$75 dollars a month or less.

**For current HealthCare.gov consumers, this is the time to come back to shop** and compare your current plan with others available in your area for 2017. There may be new plans available that offer the services you need, include more doctors, or save you money.

**Getting covered is easier than ever.** Every year, the process of signing up for coverage gets simpler. You can even apply on your cell phone. During last year's open enrollment, it took most people about 10 minutes to submit an application.

**Join the millions of Americans who now have access to quality and affordable coverage.** December 15 is the deadline for coverage that starts on January 1, 2017. Sign up today.

**Free, confidential help is available.** Get answers to your questions by contacting our trained professionals for free and confidential assistance. Call 1-800-318-2596 or find free, in-person help in your community by visiting [www.LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov](http://www.LocalHelp.HealthCare.gov). [Information](#) and additional resources are available at [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](http://CuidadoDeSalud.gov).

### How the Health Care Law reflects our Shared Values and Common Beliefs

*“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”*  
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a speech to the Medical Committee for Human Rights, 1966

- For many organizations, serving our neighbors and helping those who are less fortunate is our critical mission. Many of us understand that “the least of these” must have access to basic needs, such as health care.
- The dignity of the individual calls us all to affirm a vision of society where people have the most accessible opportunity for health and wholeness.
- Some traditions refer to “peace” or “shalom” and “salam” when referring to that shared wholeness. In other words, creating and promoting a life that is full and whole. Like the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s *Beloved Community*, faith and community leaders want the best for their neighbors and their families.
- One way we can affirm that shared vision, as well as the inherent dignity of every individual, is by ensuring access to health care and preventive services that will enable more people to live longer and with better health.
- Through the health care law, millions of uninsured people can take steps towards health and wholeness because they are now able to access affordable care.
- The health care law moves our nation from a focus on “sick care,” or emergency care that is costly and treats illness, to a health care system that is life-affirming by focusing on prevention, well-being and access to care.
- Increasing access to care and preventive services is critical for promoting health and healing in our communities.
- This vision, however, cannot be realized without helping people who are uninsured become aware of the tools available to them to improve their health, including affordable insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace for themselves and their loved ones.
- The health care law is about people having access to care and services they need to maintain their health and well-being.
- It’s about easing the financial fears many individuals and families have about their lack of health care coverage.
- It’s about tending to the needs of our neighbors.
- Helping uninsured individuals and families get the health insurance coverage they need is at the heart of the mission of many faith and community leaders. Through this act of service and education, we express justice, fairness, and solidarity for our families, our communities and our civic life together.

### Quality, Affordable Health Care for our Neighbors

- The law assures that the all citizens have access to essential benefits and a broad menu of preventive services and screenings, from diabetes to depression.
- Health care coverage is essential to staying healthy and preventing disease while covering individuals and families for medical expenses due to illness or injury. Having quality health insurance means people won't have to worry that their finances will be turned upside down or that they will go bankrupt due to health care costs from an illness or accident.
- However, millions of Americans still lack quality, affordable health care coverage and remain at risk.
- For some people, coverage will be completely free based on their household income and other factors. For others, assistance in reducing costs may apply. People without health insurance need to know that they may be able to enroll in quality, affordable health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- Community leaders and groups, both faith-based and secular, can play an important role in ensuring that their neighbors are aware of these options. These leaders and organizations can raise awareness about the Marketplace by taking steps like including information in organizational newsletters, hosting a call or event to explain these new options, or making announcements in organizational meetings or classes.
- For materials you may use in connection with these efforts, go to [marketplace.cms.gov](http://marketplace.cms.gov).
- Helping uninsured individuals and families get affordable, quality health insurance will increase the well-being and financial security of our communities.