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Orange County Plans to Help Residents Enroll in the Affordable Care Act Marketplace

Orange County, NC (September 30, 2013) – A coalition of Orange County departments, school systems, and organizations has been meeting to develop a plan for enrolling residents in the Affordable Care Act Marketplace.

Nationally, the Marketplace opens for enrollment on Tuesday, October first. Enrollment will continue until March 31, 2014. The County's plans are to encourage individuals to begin the enrollment process by visiting www.Healthcare.gov. Many individuals and families will be able to enroll on their own through the website.

For those individuals needing assistance with the application process, there are plans to have multiple locations accepting appointments to provide enrollment support. A toll-free number has been set up with a centralized scheduling system for people in North Carolina. The North Carolina Marketplace In-Person Assistance toll-free hotline's number is 1-855-733-3711.

Within Orange County, there are at least five organizations that will have Certified Application Counselors (CAC) trained to assist their clients with enrollment. The organizations providing application assistance include: the Orange County Health Department, Orange County Department of Social Services, Planned Parenthood, Department on Aging, and Piedmont Health Services. In addition, Piedmont Health Services, Legal AID, and Community Care of North Carolina are working to enroll individuals who are not currently affiliated with one of these organizations.

"Our main message is that people don't need to rush out on October first to enroll" says Dr. Colleen Bridger, Orange County Health Director. "We are encouraging people to familiarize themselves with the available plans and ask questions via the national hotline, 1-800-318-2596, and/or work with a local certified application counselor to determine the best option for their family. Anyone who enrolls in a Marketplace plan before December 15, 2013 and makes their premium payment will have coverage starting January 1, 2014."

The Orange County Health Department has created a [webpage](http://orangecountync.gov/health/aca.asp) (<http://orangecountync.gov/health/aca.asp>) that will house the most current information

about the Affordable Care Act and the Marketplace. It will be updated with locations where people can get help as they become available.

The Orange County ACA Enrollment Planning Coalition includes representation from Orange County Departments of Social Services, Health, Aging, and Libraries; Orange County Schools; Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools; Piedmont Health Services; Planned Parenthood; UNC Healthcare/REX; UNC Family Medicine; the Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce; Legal AID; and Enroll America.

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