



For Immediate Release

November 1, 2016

Commissioner Mike Chaney Reminds Mississippians about Federal Health Care Exchange Open Enrollment

Jackson- Mississippians who want new or updated health insurance coverage through the Federally Facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace can now purchase policies during the Marketplace's open enrollment period. To have coverage start January 1, 2017 they must enroll in or change a plan between November 1, 2016, and December 15, 2016.

The Federally-Facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace is an online option to buy individual private health insurance coverage. If you don't have health insurance through an employer, Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or another source that provides qualifying coverage, the Marketplace can help you get covered. Open enrollment for 2017 individual Marketplace health insurance coverage began November 1, 2016, and ends January 31, 2017.

"Many people in Mississippi will qualify for financial assistance toward their premium cost. Financial assistance is based on gross yearly income and household size," Chaney said.

During open enrollment, you can browse and compare available health insurance plans and prices before you decide to purchase a plan. You can also change your plan choice at any time during the open enrollment period.

The penalty for not having adequate health insurance coverage has increased. Unless you qualify for an exemption, you may have to pay 2.5% of your household income or \$695 per adult when doing your 2016 income taxes.

Currently two companies offer policies through the Marketplace for Mississippi: Humana Insurance Company, and Ambetter of Magnolia, Inc.

When you apply for Marketplace health insurance coverage, you'll need to provide details about your household, income, and any coverage you currently have. You can submit an application online, over the phone or by mail. To learn more about obtaining health insurance coverage

through the Marketplace, please visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/> or call 1-800-318-2596.