



A Service of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

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**MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION ANNOUNCES PRODUCER
AUTHORIZATION TRAINING FOR BROKERS
TO SELL INSURANCE PLANS**

*Statewide Training Sessions Scheduled in August and September for Estimated 2,000 Brokers
to Complete Requirements for Authorization*

BALTIMORE (August 9, 2013) Maryland Health Connection, the state-based insurance marketplace operated by the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, announced today a series of training sessions for insurance brokers statewide in August and September. Insurance brokers seeking authorization to sell plans through Maryland Health Connection are required to complete the one-time, eight hour training course. Insurance brokers will receive instruction on MarylandHealthConnection.gov, insurance plans, federal tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.

"For more than three years, we have worked with Maryland's insurance brokers to establish a marketplace that will ensure they are able to participate in Maryland Health Connection when it launches on October 1st," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown.

"Brokers will continue to play an important role in connecting Maryland families and businesses to quality, affordable health insurance products. By working to fully implement the Affordable Care Act, Maryland is continuing to lead the nation in making health coverage accessible to all Marylanders."

"We have a strong relationship with the broker community as we prepare to launch the state-based insurance marketplace and expand access to quality health insurance to 800,000 Maryland residents. This training is an important component in the process of becoming authorized to sell plans through Maryland Health Connection," said Rebecca Pearce, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. **"Since July, more than 900 brokers have begun the application process which will allow them to become authorized to assist individuals during the open enrollment period that begins in October."**

Brokers are required to complete one training session to fulfill the authorization process. Training sessions have been scheduled throughout the state beginning August 19:

- **Monday, Aug. 19** (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at Chesapeake College, Todd Performing Arts Center, 1000 College Circle, Wye Mills 21679
- **Thursday, Aug. 22** (9 a.m. – 5p.m.) at University of Baltimore, 1420 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore 21201
- **Tuesday, Aug. 27** (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at Greenbelt Marriott, 6400 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt 20770
- **Wednesday, Aug. 28** (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at University of Baltimore, 1420 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore 21201
- **Wednesday, Sept. 4** (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) at Greenbelt Marriott, 6400 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt 20770
- **Tuesday, Sept. 10** (9 a.m. – 5p.m.) at University of Baltimore, 1420 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore 21201
- **Wednesday, Sept. 11** (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)at Greenbelt Marriott, 6400 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt 20770

There is no cost to attend and pre-registration is required. Licensed health brokers can visit www.marylandhealthconnectiontraining.com to register. Prior to attending training, insurance brokers should complete the online application process as the first step to becoming authorized to sell plans through Maryland Health Connection. For more information, visit: <http://goo.gl/yXmt8j>.

Note to Editor: Please call the MHBE Press Office at 410-547-6891 for requests to observe training. Media may not register for training; only licensed insurance brokers may register for training.

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About Maryland Health Connection: Maryland Health Connection is the marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses to compare and enroll in health insurance, as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid and other assistance programs, federal tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. Enrollment through Maryland Health Connection is scheduled to begin in October 2013, with insurance coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2014. An estimated 180,000 individuals are expected to enroll in qualified health plans (QHPs) during the first year. Additional information about Maryland Health Connection, the enrollment process and selecting coverage can be found at www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov and on social media channels: Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/MarylandConnect>; Twitter, <https://twitter.com/marylandconnect> and YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/marylandconnect>

About Maryland Health Benefit Exchange: The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) is a public corporation and independent unit of the State government established in April 2011 in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA). The (MHBE) has a nine member Board of Trustees that includes the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Insurance Commissioner and Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission. The MHBE is responsible for the administration of the Maryland Health Connection. www.MarylandHBE.com.