



A Service of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

## MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE BOARD CELEBRATES PROGRESS OF OPEN ENROLLMENT

*Exchange enrolls more than 100,000 at one-month mark*

BALTIMORE (Dec. 16, 2014) — The Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) today celebrated the progress of the Maryland Health Connection one month into its open enrollment. More than 100,000 Marylanders have signed up for 2015 health coverage.

Maryland Health Connection has enrolled **105,902 people** — **including 61,031 in Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and 41,871 in Medicaid**. By comparison, during the first open enrollment a year ago, 1,278 Marylanders enrolled in private QHPs through the marketplace during its first 30 days.

A rebuilt website that enables consumers to “browse” plans without needing to create personal accounts, a much larger schedule of enrollment fairs across the state than a year ago and additional “storefront” spaces where Marylanders can get assistance enrolling in person have helped propel the improved results. The changes have been noted in the media, including:

- *ACASignups.net*, in a [Nov. 24 post](#), said: “Maryland has done a complete turnaround this year.”
- *Baltimore Business Journal*, comparing the year-over-year enrollment periods in a [Nov. 25 article](#), stated: “This year, so far, appears to be a different story on the newly rebuilt website.”
- Carol Anderson’s *HealthInsurance.org* [Dec. 10 blog](#) found this year’s health insurance marketplace “dramatically improved over the version that launched in the fall of 2013.”

“It has been a totally different experience this year,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Chairman of the MHBE board. “I am so grateful to all of the people in our state who have worked together for this success.”

Thursday is the deadline for Marylanders to enroll or renew their plans for insurance that starts New Year's Day and to receive an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) beginning then, if they qualify.

The open enrollment period for qualified health plan coverage in 2015 ends Feb. 15, 2015. Medicaid enrollment is year-round.

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**About the 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). MHBE is responsible for the administration of Maryland Health Connection. [marylandhbe.com](http://marylandhbe.com)

**About Maryland Health Connection:** Maryland Health Connection (MHC) is the state-based health insurance marketplace for individuals and families 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. [marylandhealthconnection.gov](http://marylandhealthconnection.gov)

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