



A Service of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SPECIAL TAX ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION ENDS**

*More than 4,700 Enrolled, Avoiding Additional Penalty*

BALTIMORE (May 1, 2015) — More than 4,700 Marylanders took advantage of a special six-week enrollment period that allowed them to enroll for health insurance to avoid an additional federal tax penalty for 2015 if they had already owed a tax penalty for lacking health coverage in 2014.

Marylanders who applied for the special enrollment period, which ran from March 15 through yesterday, attested that they owe the penalty for lacking health insurance in 2014 and that they became aware of this after the Feb. 15 close of open enrollment for 2015 coverage.

The tax penalty imposed for individuals who did not have health coverage in 2014 was 1 percent of gross household income over the federal income tax filing threshold, or \$95 per individual – whichever is greater. For 2015, the penalty increases to 2 percent of gross household income over the federal income tax filing threshold, or \$325 per individual – whichever is greater.

As of April 29, 125,535 Marylanders have enrolled in Qualified Health Plans through Maryland Health Connection, and 248,475 Marylanders have enrolled in Medicaid since Nov. 15, 2014. The QHP enrollment total includes the 4,709 people during the tax special enrollment period.

Medicaid and Maryland Children's Health Program enrollment is 1,266,186 as of April 29. Since Dec. 31, 2013, the net change in Medicaid enrollment is +263,329 as of April 29. This figure takes into account that individuals lose Medicaid coverage because of changes in household, age and income, as well as redeterminations.

Marylanders who are eligible for Medicaid are not affected by the tax special enrollment period. People can apply for Medicaid at any time and enroll year-round. Marylanders who are eligible for Medicaid may have coverage starting immediately.

Even though open enrollment for qualified health plans through Maryland Health Connection is closed, Marylanders with life changes can enroll online at [MarylandHealthConnection.gov](http://MarylandHealthConnection.gov), by calling 1-855-642-8572 (TTY: 1-855-642-8573) or through in-person assistance also listed on the website.

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**About Maryland Health Benefit Exchange:** The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) is a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in April 2011 in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA). It is responsible for the administration of Maryland Health Connection. [www.MarylandHBE.com](http://www.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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