

MEDIA RELEASE

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## BENEFITMALL CHOSEN TO ADMINISTER SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAM FOR MARYLAND EXCHANGE

BALTIMORE (July 26, 2016) – BenefitMall has been chosen as the administrator for the small business health insurance program offered through Maryland Health Connection, the state’s marketplace for health coverage, the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange announced today.

BenefitMall will be responsible for reviewing applications, determining eligibility and other aspects of the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP). For Maryland businesses with 50 or fewer employees, SHOP provides easy management of their health insurance and benefits program.

“The program helps employers recruit and retain skilled workers in a competitive environment,” said Carolyn Quattrocki, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. “Employers also can take advantage of free expert advice, greater coverage options for their employees and simplicity in paying for premiums.”

BenefitMall is a national provider of employee benefits, payroll, human resources and employer services to more than 200,000 small and medium-sized businesses. It also operates HealthCareExchange.com, an online resource about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. BenefitMall was selected to administer the Maryland SHOP through a competitive procurement process.

“BenefitMall is extremely excited about the opportunity to partner with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and to support small businesses in obtaining quality health care coverage for their employees,” said Fran Guillott, regional vice president of BenefitMall. “With more than 35 years of industry experience in successfully supporting brokers and small businesses in the procurement of health benefits, we know that we will be a valuable contributor to the SHOP experience.”

As of June 1, a total of 119 small businesses were using SHOP to cover more than 1,000 individuals. Of those businesses, 83 percent have fewer than 10 employees and 12 percent have fewer than 20 employees.

Businesses with less than 25 full-time (equivalent) employees may be eligible for a tax credit for plans purchased through the Maryland Health Connection SHOP marketplace for any two consecutive tax years beginning in 2014. Small businesses are able to deduct premium costs not covered by the tax credit.

For more information, go to  
[www.benefitmall.com/Brokers/Additional/MD-Shop](http://www.benefitmall.com/Brokers/Additional/MD-Shop)

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

**About Maryland Health Connection:** Maryland Health Connection (MHC) is the state-based marketplace for Marylanders to shop 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)

### **Media Contacts**

Andrew Ratner, Director of Marketing and Strategic Initiatives  
443-827-6558, [aratner@maryland.gov](mailto:aratner@maryland.gov)

Betsy Charlow, Deputy Director of Marketing and Outreach  
410-547-6324 W, 443-257-3293 C, [elizabeth.charlow@maryland.gov](mailto:elizabeth.charlow@maryland.gov)