

MEDIA RELEASE

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## CONSUMERS CAN NOW REVIEW 2018 PLANS AND PRICES AT MARYLANDHEALTHCONNECTION.GOV

### “ANONYMOUS BROWSING” BEGINS A MONTH BEFORE OPEN ENROLLMENT

BALTIMORE — Marylanders can now review plans and prices for 2018 coverage on MarylandHealthConnection.gov, the state’s online insurance marketplace. Open enrollment for 2018 coverage is Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, 2017, and plans start Jan. 1, 2018.

Nine out of 10 people who enrolled through Maryland Health Connection this year received financial help. Again, for next year, many consumers may find their cost of coverage is similar to or even less than this year. And the estimated 2.5 million Marylanders who have a pre-existing condition cannot be charged more for coverage.

“We encourage everyone who needs health coverage to review their options on MarylandHealthConnection.gov,” said Dr. Howard Haft, interim executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, which operates the state’s insurance marketplace. “Don’t automatically assume from what you’ve heard that this isn’t for you. You need to check it out.”

Marylanders should visit MarylandHealthConnection.gov, and click "Get Started." There they can "Get an Estimate" by entering basic information to review health and dental plans, and their estimated costs for 2018. Consumers who already have a 2017 plan also can make changes and shop for new coverage from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15.

Marylanders who are eligible for Medicaid or the Maryland Children’s Health Program, or who have recently experienced certain qualifying life events (such as having a baby) can enroll year-round.

Maryland is making great strides in health coverage. It recently:

- Cut the percentage of uninsured residents in half, down to 6.1 percent in 2016, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Ranked fifth among all states in young adult enrollments (18-34 years old) as a percentage of overall enrollment, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Ranked fourth nationally in coverage gains in rural areas from 2013 to 2015, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.
- Saw the amount spent in hospitals for people without insurance decline by \$311 million from 2013 to 2015, according to the Maryland Department of Legislative Services.

To help Marylanders enroll, Maryland Health Connection launched the most robust enrollment mobile app in the nation with more than 150,000 downloads to date. Hundreds of insurance brokers and “navigators” located across the state are available to provide free enrollment assistance. And enrollment events will be held throughout Maryland, including a series of “Beat The Rush” events during the weekend of Nov. 3-5. Details are available at [MarylandHealthConnection.gov/BeatTheRush](http://MarylandHealthConnection.gov/BeatTheRush).

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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. It was established in 2011 in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) and is responsible for the administration of Maryland Health Connection.

**About Maryland Health Connection:** One of every six Marylanders receive their health coverage through Maryland Health Connection (MHC), 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.

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