

Media Release

**MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE CELEBRATES
TOP AUTHORIZED HEALTH INSURANCE BROKERS**

BALTIMORE (May 21, 2026) – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) celebrated the top 100 Maryland Health Connection (MHC) authorized brokers yesterday at the Broker Achievement Awards event held at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland. Four elite brokers received awards for their outstanding efforts.

These top brokers were Wonde Desalegn, of Spring Financial Services in Silver Spring, for highest enrollment in the Individual Market; Micah Kidd, of Online Health Broker in Prince George's County, for highest enrollment in the MHC for Small Business category; Brenda Mbah, of Mbacam Insurance Benefits LLC in Prince George's County, for new MHC top broker; and Jon Levine of Viking Benefit Solutions in Ellicott City, for top broker in the Broker Assistance Transfer category. The Broker Assistance Transfer is a program developed by MHBE for Marylanders who call the call center and need help choosing a plan to get transferred to an authorized broker for individualized service. Photos and bios of each of the top four winners are attached.

This year, brokers were recognized for their outstanding commitment and dedication to helping Maryland reach its highest enrollment ever — a 3% increase from the previous year. These top MHC brokers worked diligently to keep Marylanders insured despite the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits and rising premium costs. Broker Achievement Awards sponsors were also on hand to congratulate and recognize the top brokers, including CareFirst, Kaiser Permanente, Delta Dental, HSA Bank, Wellpoint, MarylandSaves, UnitedHealthcare, and VSP Individual Vision Plans.

In addition, MHBE celebrated the top 100 brokers for their perseverance and sales performance in the small business and individual market categories. A list of all recognized brokers is on the MHBE website at marylandhbe.com.

“On behalf of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, we are proud to recognize and thank the top 100 brokers whose commitment, expertise, and dedication have helped more Marylanders gain access to quality, affordable health coverage,” said Michele Eberle, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

“Their commitment to ensuring access to affordable health coverage has made a profound difference in the lives of thousands of individuals, families, and small businesses across the state. We are grateful for their exceptional work,” Eberle continued.

Several factors contributed to the overall growth:

- Record growth was driven by a strong but challenging open enrollment season, marking eight consecutive years of gains. Enrollment reached 255,612 (+3%), with renewals up 8%, though overall growth slowed due to the expiration of enhanced tax credits at the end of 2025.
- In addition, premiums increased 18% nationwide. Maryland established Maryland Premium Assistance through Governor Wes Moore and the General Assembly to offset lost federal aid for individuals up to 400% of the federal poverty level, with the greatest support for those under 200% FPL. Again, this year, Maryland provided extra financial help to young adults.
- Enrollment among young adults ages 18–37 increased by 7% from last year, with more than 74% eligible for a Maryland subsidy created in 2022 to encourage coverage. Their participation also helps stabilize and lower overall rates for everyone.
- Maryland Premium Assistance helped many families avoid difficult tradeoffs between basic needs like food and health care, though some higher-income individuals did not qualify for the support. Those earning around \$62,600 and early retirees not yet eligible for Medicare were especially impacted, with some shifting to less generous coverage; 5,743 enrollees moved from gold plans to bronze plans this year due to rising costs.
- Maryland Health Connection focused part of its outreach on Black and Hispanic communities, which have historically faced higher uninsured rates. As a result, enrollment increased by 4% among Black consumers and 2% among Hispanic consumers for 2026.
- Overall, new enrollments declined by 12%, while dental plan enrollments increased by 9% and vision plan enrollments rose 42% to 1,209. Even after open enrollment, Maryland continues to offer coverage opportunities through tax filings, unemployment applications, and qualifying life events such as job loss, marriage, divorce, or aging off a parent’s plan.

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[Maryland Health Benefit Exchange](#) (MHBE), a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in 2011, administers 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. It is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable.

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Attachments: Photos of top four winners and biographies

Top Individual Market Broker



Wonde Desalegn is a health insurance professional based in Silver Spring, MD. He is the CEO of Spring Financial Services (SFS), a multifaceted business with a robust concentration in insurance.

Wonde and his colleagues educate, enroll, and support clients in the individual and group health insurance market, focusing on underserved communities in the DMV area. SFS is licensed in Maryland and several other states, offering clients nationwide critical and meaningful access to affordable, quality health insurance options.

Mr. Desalegn has partnered with Maryland Health Connection and participated in open enrollments since 2014.

Top Small Business Market Broker



Micah Kidd is a licensed insurance professional dedicated to helping families and individuals secure their financial futures. His client-centered practice emphasizes transparency, education, and long-term stability, ensuring clients fully understand their coverage options and policy benefits.

Mr. Kidd has extensive experience with public health insurance marketplaces, including DC Health Link and Maryland Health Connection. He has helped numerous individuals and small businesses navigate enrollment processes and select appropriate coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

An ethically-driven broker, he maintains a rigorous focus on regulatory compliance and accountability.

Top Broker Assistance Transfer Phone (BATPhone)



Jon Levine graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in biological science. He started his career in sales and in 2000 founded his own company. During the 2009 credit crunch, the opportunity to provide liquidity to businesses led to a position as sales director at a niche business lending broker. While in this role and with the passage of the ACA, Jon recognized the unique opportunity to utilize his skills and experience in the insurance industry. Jon joined New York Life in 2013, to focus on providing corporate benefits and financial products. With the growth of the ACA, Jon went independent and formed Viking Benefit Solutions to specialize in health insurance. Jon has been active with Maryland Health Connection since its launch, and has participated in BATPhone every year. He also has served as a member on various Maryland Health Benefit Exchange committees.

Top New MHC Top Broker



Brenda Mbah has been serving in the insurance field since 2019, continuing a legacy she began alongside her late father, Godlove Mbah. As a licensed broker, she is committed to supporting her community through personalized health insurance solutions, while also specializing in life insurance and annuities. Brenda takes pride in the recognition of her work and remains dedicated to helping individuals and families make informed decisions that protect their health and strengthen their long-term financial security.