

Good morning,

If you have members, family, and friends who need to enroll or re-enroll in a 2018 health insurance exchange marketplace plan under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), please share the following with them in light of a series of actions taken by the Trump administration. These actions are expected to hinder enrollment efforts, cut advertising and outreach, and result in a destabilization of the health insurance marketplace. Please tell your members, family and friends that:

1. Open Enrollment Period has been cut by 6 weeks

- Open enrollment began on **Wednesday November 1, 2017** and will run **until midnight December 15, 2017**.
 - Some state-based exchange marketplaces have longer enrollment periods, so check with your state.

2. The HealthCare.gov website will be down and taken offline for 12 hours on Sundays during open enrollment:

- This “scheduled maintenance” will further lessen enrollment opportunities for consumers in an exchange plan.

3. Advertising and outreach for 2018 open enrollment was cut from \$100 million to \$10 million:

- Don't expect to see much in the way of television or other media ads. The administration cut federal funding for ACA open enrollment outreach efforts by 90% compared to last year. That is why word of mouth and sharing enrollment information, such as this reminder, is important!
 - Also, the administration will not be participating in state-based open enrollment activities organized by navigator groups.

4. The Administration intends to auto-enroll people the day after the 2018 open enrollment ends:

- Current enrollees may not have an opportunity to shop for new health plans.

- If consumers miss the deadline to enroll in a plan of their choice, they will not be able to make any changes to their current plan until the next coverage year or if the person qualifies for a special enrollment period.

For those of you who would like to know more about what to expect with the 2018 ACA exchange marketplace open enrollment period that started on November 1, the Alliance for Health Policy held a webinar on October 24, 2017 that you may want to view along with the slide presentation. The webinar can be found at <http://www.allhealthpolicy.org/marketplace-open-enrollment-preview/> and the 2018 ACA enrollment slide presentation at http://www.allhealthpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Karen-Pollitz-Presentation_20171025a.pdf

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