

News Release

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# Covered California Announces Enrollment Increase as Its First Deadline of Dec. 31 Approaches

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — With a key deadline coming up on Dec. 31, Covered California announced that 161,670 people have signed up for 2024 coverage as of Dec. 23 during this open enrollment, marking an 18 percent increase over the same period last year and the highest during this same period in four years.

Another 1,571,559 Californians have renewed their coverage so far.

"The robust enrollment we have seen so far highlights how much Californians value affordable health care coverage," said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. "California has strived to make health insurance more affordable for more people, and it is vital for the remaining uninsured in the state to look into their options before the end of the year and sign up."

With the first open-enrollment deadline of Dec. 31 quickly approaching, Covered California is urging consumers to sign up now so they can have their health care coverage begin on Jan. 1. Open enrollment will end on Jan. 31.

#### Increased Affordability With Most Financial Help Ever Offered in 2024

In 2024, Covered California will offer more financial help for Californians than ever before. Building on the existing federal subsidies to help pay for health insurance premiums, Covered California is offering a new program that will reduce the cost of accessing health care for consumers by lowering out-of-pocket costs when they seek medical care, including eliminating deductibles in all three Silver cost-sharing reduction plans.

The new cost-sharing reduction program for out-of-pocket costs will be available to Californians with incomes up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$33,975 for single enrollees and \$69,375 for families of four. Currently, 650,000 existing Covered California enrollees are eligible to take advantage of this program, and over 80,000 new enrollees have qualified for these cost savings and richer benefits.

Nearly 90 percent of Covered California's over 1.6 million enrollees receive financial help. Twothirds of those enrollees are eligible for health insurance for \$10 or less per month, and nearly half could get a comprehensive Silver plan for that price.

#### (more)

### Signing Up for Coverage Is Easy

Consumers can learn more about their options by visiting <u>CoveredCA.com</u>, where they can easily find out if they qualify for financial help and see the coverage options in their area. Those interested in learning more about their coverage options can also:

- Get free and confidential assistance over the phone, in a variety of languages, from one of more than 14,000 certified agents and community-based organizations throughout the state that provide free, confidential help in whatever language or dialect consumers prefer.
- Have a certified enroller <u>call them</u> and help them for free.
- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.

"Navigating the health care system can be complicated, but whether you fill out your own application on CoveredCA.com or contact one of our Navigator partners or one of our over 14,000 agents to get help with the language you prefer to speak, we have a support system set up to assist you into coverage," Altman said. "Give yourself and your family the peace of mind for the holidays that comes with having health care coverage."

Consumers must select a health plan by the Dec. 31 deadline to receive coverage for all of 2024.

#### About Covered California

Covered California is the state's health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the health insurance marketplace work for California's consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit <u>www.CoveredCA.com</u>.

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