

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Open enrollment for health insurance begins this week

MOBILE, Alabama — The Federal Health Insurance Exchange (also known as the Marketplace) Open Enrollment Period runs from November 1 to December 15 for coverage starting on January 1, 2019.

Similar to last year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is taking a strategic and cost-effective approach to inform individuals about Open Enrollment, deliver a smooth enrollment experience and use consumer feedback to drive ongoing improvements across the Exchange platform. Consumers can visit HealthCare.gov and CuidadodeSalud.gov to preview 2019 plans and prices before Open Enrollment begins.

The Mobile County Health Department and Family Health, its primary care division, have almost two dozen Certified Application Counselors (CAC) ready to assist. The counselors have been trained and are able to help consumers as they look for health coverage options through the Marketplace.

They can assist consumers in completing eligibility and enrollment forms. Assistance by the CACs is free to consumers.

"As with the previous years, each site has designated staff members that are trained to ensure that the client experiences a seamless enrollment process," said James Dixon, M.P.H., a Family Health administrator. "I would also like to point out that they can visit any one of our sites and avoid the rush of trying to get in at one location due to enrollment times varying anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes, depending on family size and complexity."

Certified Application Counselors can be found at all Family Health centers conveniently located throughout Mobile County. To make an appointment, please call the Family Health center located closest to you. For a list of sites, you may visit www.FamilyHealthAlabama.org or call 251-445-8632.