

## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

Public Health - Madison & Dane County

(PHMDC) and Covering Wisconsin

Contact: Jeff Golden (608) 243-0302

Free Help with Health Insurance Enrollment

Assistance Provided at Public Health

East Washington Office

Madison WI – December 1, 2015 - Open Enrollment for 2016 ACA Marketplace health insurance plans (“Obamacare”) started November 1 and runs through January 31. These are plans offered by local health insurance companies for people who cannot get affordable insurance through a job or government health care coverage (such as Medicaid or Medicare). During Open Enrollment, Dane County residents can shop for health insurance, find out their federal discounts, re-enroll in their Marketplace plan or make updates to their information.

Many people need assistance with the enrollment process. “Currently, many people are unaware that they are eligible for BadgerCare Plus or for financial assistance to help pay for a Marketplace plan,” says Janel Heinrich, Director of Public Health Madison & Dane County (PHMDC). “To help meet these needs, PHMDC is pleased to partner with Covering Wisconsin and will provide a regular location for enrollment assistance over the next 3 years.”

Navigators from Covering Wisconsin (CWI) will be at the PHMDC east office, providing free help to consumers to sign up for Marketplace insurance plans or BadgerCare Plus (Medicaid). The east office is located at 2705 East Washington Avenue, just above the Madison Public Library.

Through the Open Enrollment period, their hours will be

- Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 to 4:30, and
- Wednesdays from 10 to 6.

Appointments are strongly encouraged, but walk-ins will be served if the Navigator is available. To make an appointment with a CWI Navigator, please call 608-261-1455. Assistance in Spanish is available.

Other enrollment assistance resources will also be available through January, including some with evening and weekend hours. To get details about these other locations and events in Dane and surrounding counties, call 2-1-1 (United Way) or CWI at 608-261-1455.

If you do not require assistance, you can apply for Marketplace health insurance and federal discounts by calling 1-800-318-2596 or by going online at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

Dane County residents may be able to get additional help to pay for certain Marketplace plans through the *United Way Health Connect* program. Information is available by calling 2-1-1 (United Way).

Area residents can also apply for BadgerCare Plus any time of year by calling 1-888-794-5556 or on-line at <https://access.wisconsin.gov/>.

An online version of this release is available at

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/news/free-help-with-health-insurance-enrollment>