

# Assistor Newsletter Volume 15 September 2019

#### In this issue:

## **New York's Uninsured Rate Continues to Fall**

According to the latest U.S. Census report, New York's uninsured rate fell from 5.7 percent to 5.4 percent between 2017 and 2018 and is one of only three states (along with Wyoming and South Carolina) that saw a statistically significant decline in uninsured from 2017 to 2018. The number of uninsured people has gone down by 1.2 million since 2010, including one million since the Marketplace opened in 2013. Earlier this year, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Health Interview Survey reported that the uninsured rate for New York State in 2018 was 4.7 percent. Both surveys show the same strong downward trend in New York's uninsured rate, despite some variation in survey results and methodology.

## Get Ready! Open Enrollment For 2020 Begins November 1, Renewals Begin November 16

Open Enrollment for Qualified Health Plans starts November 1, 2019 and ends January 31, 2020. Once again, New York is giving consumers more time to make important health coverage decisions by extending the final deadline for Qualified Health Plan enrollment, well beyond the deadline set by the Federal government.

Thank you for all of your hard work in getting New Yorkers covered and helping to make our 7th Open Enrollment Period a success!

# NY State of Health is Keeping Consumers Informed on 2020 Enrollment Dates and Deadlines

The Marketplace continues its successful consumer email campaign for 2020 in both English and Spanish. A series of email messages will go out to consumers before and during the enrollment period. Emails will include:

- Get Ready for Good Health in 2020 October
- Today's the Day to Renew November
- Renewal Reminder December
- Reminder to Pick a Plan (Qualified Health Plan) November, December.
- Reminder to Pick a Plan (Essential Plan) Monthly, year-round
- Deadline Reminder Qualified Health Plan January

## **Updated Materials Are Ready for Order**

All <u>At a Glance cards</u> and NY State of Health fact sheets contain 2020 enrollment information and are available for order. Click on each individual card for more information.

At-A-Glance Qualified Health Plan Essential Plan Child Health Plus Medicaid

Fact Sheets Essential Plan Young Adults

NY State of Health educational materials are available in other languages and can be ordered <u>here</u>.

## **Addressing Public Charge Inquiries**

The federal Public Charge rules are scheduled to begin on October 15, 2019. Public Charge is an immigration law issue that applies to only certain people, but consumers may have questions regarding Medicaid eligibility. Go <u>here</u> for training information and help in responding to questions asked by consumers you assist.

## **Campaigns and Events Educate Consumers on Coverage Choices**

This busy outreach season has given assistors the opportunity to showcase their services and educate consumers on their insurance options and how to enroll. Here's a snapshot of some signature events below:

#### Circles of Sisters Expo Attracts Tens of Thousands to NY State of Health Table



Over 50,000 people attended the Circle of Sisters event, on September 7, 2019 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan. Circle of Sisters is the largest expo bringing resources and products along with educational and spiritual events to African American women. NY State of Health Ranks First Place on the Water and With Consumers at NYC Dragon Boat Festival and Race



The NY State of Health youth team won first place at the August 3rd Hong Kong Dragon Boat Regatta Race and Festival held annually in Queens. NY State of Health spoke to over 3,000 people and collected nearly 400 leads for those seeking health coverage through the Marketplace.



#### NY State of Health Promotes Affordable Health Coverage at NYC

# Supermarkets

Certified Enrollment Assistors met with shoppers at the Associated Supermarket in Woodside on August 31 to answer enrollment questions and try their luck at winning a prize basket. This event was part of a collaborative campaign between NY State of Health and El Diario Nueva York. A total of twenty tabling events are scheduled at select supermarket locations throughout New York City on Saturdays through December 2019.

#### NY State of Health Booth Had Over 10,500 Visitors at 2019 State Fair!



More than 10,500 people stopped by the NY State of Health booth at the 2019 NY State Fair in Syracuse held August 21 – September 2, 2019 to learn about quality, affordable health insurance through the Marketplace. Assistors talked to 444 consumers who said that they did not have health insurance, completed 26 lead cards and made 32 appointments to help them enroll. Thanks to all assistors who helped to make this event a success!



## **Calling For Help!**

New staffing opportunities will be popping up soon including informational and/or enrollment events at fall festivals, pharmacies, libraries and food pantries.

Reach out to <u>NYSOHorders@health.ny.gov</u> for event registration links. Don't forget to share your feedback <u>here</u> right after the event.

## Reminders

## Help Consumers Find the Right Plan Using the Right Resource

Remember to refer clients to the <u>NYS Provider and Health Plan Look-Up tool</u> when they are deciding which health plan to enroll in or when searching for a hospital or doctor that participates in their health plan. The NYS Provider & Health Plan Look-Up tool continues to grow in popularity with nearly 600,000 users since its launch in May 2017.

## Follow NY State of Health's Social Channels to Learn More

Remember to follow and "like" NY State of Health on all channels for up to date NY State of Health information, reminders and health tips. Invite your customers to do the same!

- <u>Facebook</u>
- <u>Twitter</u>
- <u>Instagram</u>

#### Assistor Certification Trainings

In-person trainings are for agencies seeking to become NY State of Health assistor agencies and individuals newly employed by NY State of Health assistor agencies. There are two NY State of Health Assistor Certification training options:

- 1) Complete on-line assistor training <u>here.</u> The password for accessing the course is NYSOH2016.
- 2) Attend a three (3) day in-person session (upcoming sessions listed below). You may register for an in-person training by clicking this <u>link</u>.

#### New York, NY

October Dates: 10/2/19 to 10/4/19 (Wednesday - Friday) Location: CAI, New York NY Address: 505 Eighth Avenue, 19<sup>TH</sup> FL Training Room New York, NY 10018

#### Albany, NY

Dates: 10/22/19 to 10/24/19 (Tuesday - Thursday) Location: Homewood Suites Address: 216 Wolf Road Meeting Room AB Albany, NY 12205

#### **Buffalo, NY**

November Dates: 11/5/19 to 11/7/19 (Tuesday - Thursday) Location: Hilton Garden Inn Buffalo Airport Address: 4201 Genesee Street HGI-Ballroom III Buffalo, NY 14225

#### **New York, NY**

Dates: 11/12/19 to 11/14/19 (Tuesday - Thursday) Location: CAI, New York NY Address: 505 Eighth Avenue, 20<sup>TH</sup> FL Yellow Room New York, NY 10018

#### **Assistor Recertification Trainings**

All assistors who are certified on NY State of Health are required to re-certify annually. See dates for October webinars below. The September webinar will be delivered in two parts.

OctoberDate: 10/2/19, 10-11:30am<br/>Webinar: Part Two: "Open Enrollment, Renewals and What's New"OctoberDate: 10/23/19, 10-11:30am<br/>Webinar: "2020 Qualified Health Plan (QHP) and Essential Plan (EP) Line Up"

## Tell us what you think!

This newsletter is for you, so please let us know what you'd like it to include. Write to **<u>NYSOHoutreach@health.ny.gov</u>** with ideas for articles or suggestions for your fellow assistors regarding strategies you've found that work well in your community.

Be sure to follow us: 🛭 🚯