




North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

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Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

September 18, 2013

TO: DSS Directors and DPH Directors
FROM: Wayne E. Black 
RE: County Support for PPACA

When the open-enrollment period under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare) begins on October 1, as many as 1.5 million people in North Carolina will begin shopping for health insurance. Many North Carolinians will look to our county departments of social services for assistance and answers. As your staff recertify in other programs, such as Food and Nutrition Services or Child Care, this becomes an opportune time to discuss and enroll children who are already Medicaid eligible.

As the open enrollment date for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA") approaches, we in the Department of Health and Human Services ("NC DHHS") recognize that new demands will be placed on County Departments of Social Services. Anticipating this increase in the volume of calls and client walk-ins to your offices, NC DHHS has developed informational resources that can be distributed to your county's residents. The enclosed handouts will assist with communication and information on how individuals can obtain medical assistance.

The informational resources included:

1. Medicaid and NC Health Choice Applications Through ePASS

- *Description: A document to promote the usage of ePass.*

2. The Federal Health Insurance Marketplace

- *Description: A document to provide information about the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace.*

3. Additional Healthcare Resources in Your County

- *Description: A fillable form to provide information of local medical services provided at free or reduced costs to individuals that may not qualify for state or federal medical assistance.*

We encourage all Social Services Agencies to allow navigators to work onsite if your facility can accommodate them. This will provide valuable assistance to those who are interested in purchasing a plan through the federal exchange.

Additional information will be made available as it is received. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to providing the critical services needed for a healthier North Carolina. It is with your continued commitment that we will ensure a healthier North Carolina.

cc: County Commissioners

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