

PRESS RELEASE

COASTAL FAMILY HEALTH CENTER OFFERS FREE HELP FOR HEALTH PLAN SIGN-UP

Coastal Family Health Center is ready to help anyone who wants to enroll in affordable health insurance. You must sign up for health insurance by December 15 – just two weeks away – for January 1 coverage. Coastal Family offers free help to enroll in a private healthcare plan on healthcare.gov, or the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). You do not have to be a patient of CFHC in order to receive CFHC's free assistance to enroll through the Healthcare Exchange.

The Healthcare Exchange opened on November 1, 2016 and closes January 31, 2017. To get health insurance by January 1, 2017, you must enroll by December 15, 2016. Those who sign up after December 15 can get covered on February 1, 2017.

The Exchange is for anyone who needs to renew their current healthcare insurance, select a new plan, or enroll for the first time. "There are many options to choose from", says Janae Jasper, Eligibility Specialist at CFHC. "It may be best to renew existing coverage or it may be better to switch to a different plan" she adds.

Premiums are based on income and family size and can be free of charge to some.

"If they have an email account, it's a very quick process" says Jasper, who can also help people set up the required email account if they don't have one. To set up email and enroll takes thirty minutes at most, according to Jasper.

"You hear a lot of negativity around healthcare.gov but I encourage people to log on and look at what is available", advises Jasper, who can help any Oregon resident.

In addition to private healthcare insurance, Jasper also helps to enroll people in the Oregon Health Plan. This is free healthcare coverage for those who qualify based on income and family size. Everyone must renew annually and Jasper can help with that process. “I have enrolled 1,027 people into OHP so far this year”, says Jasper, meaning this number of local residents now have good health insurance.

You can see Jasper at CFHC either by appointment or walk-in at the CFHC clinic by calling 503-325-8315, or by coming to 2158 Exchange Street, Suite 304, Astoria. On Wednesdays from 10am – 1pm, she is at the Dept. of Human Services office at 450 Marine Drive, Astoria.