



Health Insurance in Maryland
Affordable Care Act
Maryland Health Connection

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A service of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

Today's Agenda



- ✘ Impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA);
- ✘ Maryland ACA related Legislation;
- ✘ Medicaid Expansion;
- ✘ Maryland Health Connection;
- ✘ Implementation Update; and
- ✘ Ways to Get Involved

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The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA)

Why It's Important to Maryland 

- ✘ **Expands access** to health insurance for 730,000 Marylanders (13% of Maryland) currently without health insurance
 - Gives individuals access to primary care physicians, preventive services
- ✘ **Lowers uncompensated care** costs in the healthcare system
 - lower insurance premiums across the state
- ✘ **Provides federal subsidies** for individuals up to 400% of FPL to pay for health insurance premiums
 - Infuses **\$600 million** in federal subsidies into the State of Maryland by 2015 → NEW funds in health care system
- ✘ Requires each state to establish a **“health insurance exchange”** by 2014

What is a Health Insurance Exchange? 

- ✘ A marketplace where individuals and small businesses explore, compare and enroll in health insurance and public assistance programs as well as access federal tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies
- ✘ States had a choice to establish a state-based exchange, join a partnership or the federally-facilitated exchange; Maryland opted to establish a state-based health insurance exchange
- ✘ Maryland's exchange is called **Maryland Health Connection**

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Maryland ACA Related Legislation

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2011 

- ✘ Established Maryland's state-based exchange as a **public corporation and independent unit of state government**
- ✘ Established **Nine-member Board** of Trustees
 - Ex-officio:
 - Secretary of Health
 - Insurance Commissioner
 - Executive Director, MHCC
 - 6 Appointed:
 - 3 with experience in insurance
 - 3 representing consumer interests
- ✘ Created **Executive Director** position
 - first Executive Director appointment in the U.S.

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012 

- ✘ Options laid out in the stakeholder advisory committee process provided recommendations from the Exchange Board to the General Assembly
- ✘ "Recommendations for a Successful Maryland Health Benefit Exchange" Legislation Report (December 23, 2011) provided recommendations for SB238/HB443
- ✘ Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012 signed by Governor O'Malley (May 2, 2012) outlines the implementation policies for operating the state-based exchange
- ✘ 2012 Legislation lays out (among other things):
 - Navigator program
 - Carrier requirements to participate

Maryland Health Progress Act of 2013 

- ✘ Dedicated funding stream to finance the MHBE
- ✘ Gradual transition of MHIP enrollees into Exchange
- ✘ Flexibility for State reinsurance wrap-around program
- ✘ SHOP Exchange rules for employer premium contributions
- ✘ Continuity of care for Marylanders
- ✘ Consolidated Services Center employee function
- ✘ Plan certification appeals process
- ✘ MCO/carriers permitted to offer plans in Exchange only
- ✘ Creation of application counselors and captive producers
- ✘ Medicaid expansion

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Medicaid Expansion in Maryland maryland  health connection

- ✘ Approximately 88,000 PAC enrollees and 20,000 individuals new to Medicaid will be eligible for full benefits in 2014
- ✘ Maryland currently provides childless adults a limited benefits package at a 50/50 match through PAC
 - In 2014, these enrollees will be **automatically enrolled** into full Medicaid.
- ✘ Children in families with incomes below 300% FPL will still qualify for Maryland Children’s Health Program (MCHP). MCHP Premium will still charge families a premium if they are between 200% -300% FPL
- ✘ Pregnant women with incomes up to 250% FPL will still also be covered under Medicaid

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Easier Access to Medicaid maryland  health connection

- ✘ Applicants will be able to apply online, by phone, mail, or in-person at existing and new locations
- ✘ Data from the IRS, Social Security Administration, and other state and federal data sources will be available; no paper verification will be necessary when the information is already available
- ✘ Eligibility will be determined in real-time, and individuals will be able to enroll in a Medicaid MCO right away
- ✘ Medicaid and the MHBE will jointly utilize a statewide call center called the Consolidated Services Center and Connector Entities as shared services for assistance

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Federal Medicaid Funds for Maryland 

- ✘ Maryland will receive an enhanced federal match for newly eligible adults
 - The federal government will finance 100% of the costs of covering the Medicaid expansion population from 2014 through 2016
 - The funds will then begin to taper down until it reaches a 90/10 match in 2020 (90% federal funds, 10% state funds), where it will remain indefinitely
 - Converting PAC from a 50/50 match rate to the enhanced expansion match rate will save the Medicaid program a substantial amount of money

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Maryland Health Connection – a Service of the Maryland Health Benefit

Maryland Health Connection 

- ✘ **One single entry point** for commercial insurance or Medicaid
 - No wrong door approach defined by CMS
- ✘ **Offers tax subsidies and cost sharing reductions** to individuals and families
 - Only place individuals can access subsidies
 - Federal government will pay a portion of costs for health insurance for people who earn up to 400% of FPL
 - Cost sharing reductions are available to individuals under 250% of FPL
- ✘ Open Enrollment Period Begins: Oct. 2013
- ✘ Coverage Effective: Jan. 2014

Access to Coverage 

- ✘ Online at www.MarylandHealthConnection.gov
 - Shop
 - Compare
 - Enroll
- ✘ **In-person Assistance:**
 - Navigators (Certified)
 - Assisters (Non-Certified)
 - Application Counselors (Certified)
 - Insurance Producers (Authorized)
 - Captive Producers
- ✘ **Consolidated Services Center** (call center)
 - Customer service
 - Application and enrollment assistance (Permitted)
 - Language line/ translation services
 - TTY for the hearing impaired

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Navigators, Assisters & Application Counselors 

The ACA creates a new entities in the market: Navigators, Assisters and Application Counselors:

- ✘ **Navigators will:**
 - Conduct public education and outreach as required by the Affordable Care Act
 - Distribute fair and impartial information
 - Facilitate enrollment in health plans
 - Provide referrals for grievances, complaints and questions
 - Provide information in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner
 - Maintain expertise in eligibility, enrollment and program specifications
 - **Refer insured small groups and individuals back to producers**
- ✘ **Assisters will:**
 - Conduct public education and outreach;
 - Facilitate eligibility determination for subsidies, Medicaid, and MCHP;
 - Facilitate and provide ongoing support
- ✘ **Application Counselors:**
 - Facilitate enrollment in health plans
 - Act in the best interest of the enrollee
 - Disclose any potential conflicts
 - Receive no funding from the MHBE

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Consumer Assistance 

Connector Program

- ✘ Connector Program has two components
 - Navigator Program: made up of Certified Individual Navigators and Licensed SHOP Navigators
 - In Person Assistance Program: made up of Assisters who will perform Outreach and Education duties and facilitate eligibility determinations and Non-certified personnel who will provide support

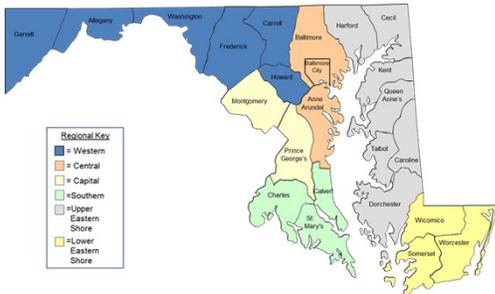
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Connector Program maryland  health connection

- ✘ Connector entities will be organized into six geographic regions.
- ✘ One connector entity will be selected to serve each region.
- ✘ While a single connector entity will be responsible for contracting with the MHBE, it is expected (and encouraged) that the prime awardee partner with other organizations in the region to meet the needs of the entire region.
- ✘ Connector entities are responsible for organizing all partners and services across the region and providing a single point of responsibility for engagement with the MHBE and the MIA.

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Connector Entities maryland  health connection



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Consumer Assistance maryland  health connection

Insurance Producers (Brokers)

- ✘ Serve an important role in the Exchange
- ✘ Continue to work directly with small group customers
- ✘ Register to become authorized to sell QHP inside the Exchange
- ✘ Be compensated directly by the carriers (as they currently are)
- ✘ Receive training from the Exchange

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Consumer Assistance 

Captive Producers

- ✘ Captive producers:
 - may transition carrier's existing enrollees into Exchange qualified plan, and may provide enrollment assistance to individuals who contact the carrier;
 - must act in best interests of consumer;
 - must disclose their employment with carrier;
 - are subject to same restrictions as navigators; and
 - are subject to same licensing and Exchange authorization requirements as authorized producers;
- ✘ Carriers must:
 - document and retain records of such disclosures for three years;
 - provide disclosure records and updated lists of captive producers to Exchange;
- ✘ Non-compliance with requirements is grounds for sanctions for both captive producer and carrier;
- ✘ Program must be administered in non-discriminatory manner without adverse selection impact; and
- ✘ Program to be sunset after three years, with study and report in 2015 on its effect and whether or not it should be continued.

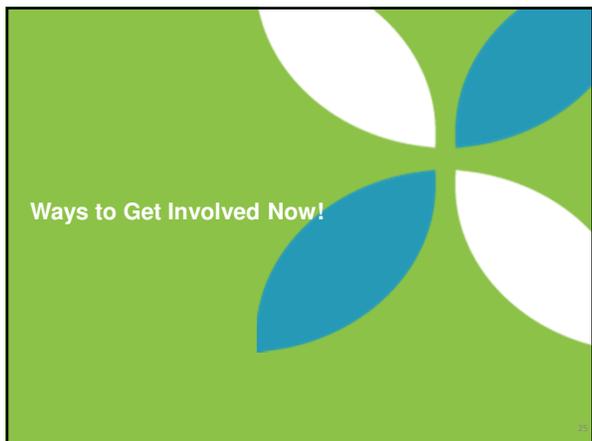
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Implementation Update 

What's Next? 

- ✘ Federal Certification: Maryland Received Conditional Certification on December 10, 2012 (among 1st six states)
- ✘ Continued development of IT system
- ✘ Outreach & Education: Q2-3 2013
- ✘ Consolidated Services Center (Call Center): August 2013
- ✘ Training: Starting mid-late August 2013
- ✘ **Open Enrollment: October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014**

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Online Resources maryland  health connection

MarylandHealthConnection.gov

- ✕ Sign Up for Email Updates
- ✕ Sign Up for Text Updates: Text "Connected" to 69302
- ✕ Get information on insurance resources available to help now
- ✕ Link to details on meetings and reports

MarylandHBE.com

- ✕ Meeting Information
- ✕ RFP Announcements
- ✕ Job Information

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Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

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