

**November 7, 2017**

## **Open enrollment for health insurance has begun**

MOBILE, Alabama — Open enrollment for people who buy their own health insurance has started and ends December 15. That is 45 days, six weeks shorter than last year.

The Mobile County Health Department and Family Health, its primary care division, have almost two dozen Certified Application Counselors ready to assist. The counselors have been trained and are able to help consumers as they look for health coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace. They can assist consumers in completing eligibility and enrollment forms.

During the 2016 Fiscal Year, our Certified Application Counselors provided assistance with enrollment or re-enrollment to 1,944 individuals. Assistance by the Certified Application Counselors is free to consumers.

Certified Application Counselors can be found at all Family Health centers conveniently located throughout Mobile County. To make an appointment, please call the Family Health center located closest to you. For a list of sites, you may visit [www.FamilyHealthAlabama.org](http://www.FamilyHealthAlabama.org) or call 251-445-8632.

A report last week by Kaiser Health News points out -- that despite attempts in Congress to make changes -- the Affordable Care Act is still the law of the land. That means if you do not get insurance through your job or a government program, you will still be able to get coverage for a set of comprehensive benefits regardless of whether you have pre-existing conditions. It also means that if you meet income eligibility requirements, you will be able to get help from the federal government to afford your premiums, and, possibly, deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs.

For additional information on the Affordable Care Act, please visit <https://www.healthcare.gov>.