

December 22, 2017

Some residents may qualify for Special Enrollment Period insurance

MOBILE, Alabama — Although the normal Open Enrollment Period ended on December 15, you may still be able to enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan for 2018 if you qualify for the Special Enrollment Period (SEP).

This is a time outside the yearly Open Enrollment Period when you can sign up for health insurance. You qualify for an SEP if you have had certain life events, including losing health coverage, moving, getting married, having a baby or adopting a child.

If you qualify for an SEP, you usually have up to 60 days following the event to enroll in a plan. If you miss that window, you have to wait until the next Open Enrollment Period to apply.

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 or call 251-445-8632.

To learn if you qualify, please visit the following website:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage-outside-open-enrollment/special-enrollment-period/>