



## Branch - Hillsdale - St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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"Your Local  
Health Department"

### NEWS RELEASE December 9, 2016

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Health Insurance Marketplace's December Deadline Is Quickly Approaching**

**Coldwater, MI.** The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, a Marketplace Navigator Agency, is reminding tri-county residents to enroll in or change their Marketplace plans by December 15, 2016 for coverage beginning on January 1, 2017. Since the start of Open Enrollment on November 1, the Agency's certified navigators have been busying assisting people with purchasing health insurance policies that meet their needs and fit their budgets. Volume is expected to increase as the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline approaches, so consumers are encouraged to call now for an appointment.

"Open enrollment season is actively underway, and we invite consumers to come to the Marketplace to enroll now to avoid a gap in their coverage," said Rebecca Burns, Health Officer for the tri-county health department. "Finding the right plan is an important decision, so we urge customers to shop for the best value and pick a plan before the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline."

Michigan offers a variety of plans to choose from and the Marketplace is the only place where you can get financial help to pay for coverage. Many consumers buying plans through the Marketplace will qualify for increased financial assistance in 2017 to help make coverage more affordable. Greater tax credits offsetting the increases in premiums may result in lower actual premiums for some individuals in 2017 compared with 2016. "Our certified navigators are trained and can help you use online tools that will help you preview plans so you can make the best selection," Burns adds.

The last day to enroll in or change a 2017 Qualified Health Plan is January 31, 2017. After this date, consumers can enroll or change plans only if they qualify for a Special Enrollment Period, such as getting married, having a baby, or losing health insurance coverage. Individuals who are eligible for Healthy Michigan Plan, Medicaid, MI Child or Healthy Kids can enroll at any time, but are encouraged to seek coverage now.

Consumers who have questions or need help enrolling can call a certified navigator at 517-437-7395, ext. 0337# to schedule an appointment or visit an in-person assister in their community. Special enrollment events, scheduled for December in Branch and Hillsdale Counties, are identified below, and January events are being planned.

**Hillsdale County:**

December 14 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the health department’s Hillsdale County Office –  
20 Care Drive, Hillsdale, MI 49242

**Branch County:**

December 15 - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Coldwater Branch Library – 10 E. Chicago,  
Coldwater, MI, 49036

To learn more about the Marketplace and its insurance products, visit our website at [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org) and click on the blue button titled “Marketplace Information” on the left sidebar. Getting health insurance has never been easier or more affordable. Be one of the millions who have signed up through the Marketplace and let us help!

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