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THE MISSOURI HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE.

NEWS RELEASE

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For additional information, contact:

Rachel Verslues, Marketing Manager,

(800) 390-3330 ext. 191 / rverslues@primaris.org

New website helps mid-Missourians prepare for upcoming ACA health insurance enrollment

*Insurance Counseling Services provides in-person assistance, unbiased help
for individuals and families reviewing their health insurance options*

COLUMBIA, MO. – Enrollment for health insurance options offered through the Affordable Care Act is only three months away as Insurance Counseling Services gears up for the enrollment period with a new website and a busy schedule of community events.

The new website, <http://midmoics.org/>, launched Wednesday. ICS is a division of the non-profit Primaris Foundation, which has partnered with the Missouri Foundation for Health -- as part of the Cover Missouri coalition -- and a network of organizations to provide education about insurance options offered through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

ICS is based in Columbia, 200 N. Keene St., and provides in-person ACA enrollment services in Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cole, Miller and Morgan counties. Randy Rodgers, ICS program director, said the goal of ICS's work and Cover Missouri is to reduce the number of Missourians without health insurance.

ICS has provided application assistance to 2,652 individuals since September 2014. The assistance resulted in 820 ACA plan enrollments, Rodgers said. In addition, ICS has conducted outreach and education efforts throughout the six-county service area, reaching more than 7,750 individuals with guidance about the ACA and access to health insurance and health care.

Rodgers said that even though the ACA has been the subject of ongoing and current political debate in Congress, nothing has changed to date.

"It's still the law of the land and we're still enrolling people," he said. "Access to health insurance is still an option under the ACA."



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Rodgers said individuals and families need to be aware that the upcoming enrollment period is only six weeks – Nov. 1 through Dec. 15 – compared to the nearly 13-week enrollment period in previous years.

The new website has a list of [helpful hints](#) as a reminder about documents needed for insurance counseling appointments. Appointments are generally set for 90 minutes. Following the website's list will make appointments go more smoothly, Rodgers said. The website also includes an easy-to-find schedule of upcoming community events where ICS representatives will be available.

For instance, ICS will participate in the Boone County Back to School Fair and the Morgan County Back to School Fair on Saturday, Aug. 5.

ICS provides unbiased, free assistance and does not sell insurance. Rodgers said counselors can also provide basic information about access to coverage under MO HealthNet/Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare, Veterans Healthcare (TRICARE), and private market health insurance plans.

To make an appointment for an enrollment session, call 573-817-8338 or toll-free at 1-800-735-6776. In addition, the Cover Missouri call center is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at 1-800-318-2596 or TTY 1-855-889-4325.



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