

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT / FEDERAL HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE MEMBER GUIDANCE

Message to AmeriCorps State and National members:

May 7, 2014

Dear AmeriCorps S & N Member,

We wanted to make you aware of two updates that may impact your current and future healthcare options.

1. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued guidance that creates a special healthcare enrollment period for all AmeriCorps State and National Members.

Starting Service: If you started your AmeriCorps State and National service after the open enrollment period which ended on March 30, 2014, you have 60 days from your service start date to sign-up for healthcare coverage through the federal healthcare marketplace.

Ending Service: At the conclusion of your service, you will also be able to purchase a qualified health plan from the federal healthcare marketplace outside of the annual open enrollment period. You have 60 days from your service end date to sign-up for healthcare coverage. For example, if you conclude your service this summer, you will now be able to purchase a qualified health plan at the conclusion of your service, rather than waiting until open enrollment season.

To apply for coverage under the Special Enrollment Period, contact the Marketplace call center at 1-888-318-2596.

2. The new guidance also states that HHS is exercising its authority to establish a hardship exemption for national service members who did not have minimum essential coverage (MEC) in 2014 (through December 31, 2014). This hardship exemption means that you will not be subject to the Individual Shared Responsibility payment for not maintaining MEC coverage in 2014 depending on which state you live in.

To request the hardship exemption, use the hardship exemption form available at <http://www.healthcare.gov/exemptions> and select reason #14. When prompted, fill in "AMERICORPS" as the reason.

The Federal healthcare marketplace does not process hardship exemptions for the State of Connecticut. Residents of Connecticut need to contact Access Health CT to apply for the hardship exemption.

We will be updating our posted FAQs to reflect this guidance.

In the interim, if you have questions, you may please contact your program director or the National Service Hotline.

To read the guidance outlined above, please visit: <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/SEP-and-hardship-FAQ-5-1-2014.pdf>

Thank you,

Bill Basl
Director of AmeriCorps State and National