



## Assistor Newsletter

Volume 3

October 2017

# Get Ready! Open Enrollment is Coming Soon

*November 1, 2017- January 31, 2018*

**We're excited to kick-off our 5<sup>th</sup> Open Enrollment Period!**

**Open Enrollment for Qualified Health Plans starts November 1, 2017 and ends January 31, 2018. By extending the open enrollment period beyond the federal deadline, consumers will have the time they need to consider health plan options and decide which plan is best for them.**

**Many individuals who qualify for federal tax credits to purchase a Qualified Health Plan will see premiums for comparable coverage decrease in 2018. As always, consumers have many plans to choose from, and more tools, like the [NYS Provider & Health Plan Look-Up](#).**

**Together, we can get more New Yorkers covered than ever before!**

## NEWS

### Consumer Email Campaign

The Marketplace will continue its successful consumer email campaign, in English and Spanish. Emails will include:

- **Renewal Emails:**
  - Get Ready for Good Health in 2018 – October
  - Renewal Reminder - December
- **Other Emails:**
  - Reminder to Pick a Plan: Essential Plan – Monthly, year-round
  - Reminder to Pick a Plan: Qualified Health Plan- November, December
  - Deadline Reminder: Qualified Health Plan- January

## 2018 Plan Participation

Nine plans will participate in all NY State of Health individual market programs in 2018, 12 insurers will offer Qualified Health Plans ([see QHP map here](#)) in the individual marketplace and 15 will offer the Essential Plan ([see EP map here](#)). In addition, five insurers will offer coverage in NY State of Health's Small Business Marketplace.

## Update! Organ Donor Sign Ups Continue

More than 63,000 New Yorkers have signed up to donate organs since NY State of Health's online registration program began in April. Learn more at [NY State of Health & Organ Donor Registry Webinar](#).

## **TOOLS/INFO – NEW MATERIALS, GIVEAWAYS, PLINKO!**

### Consumers Encouraged to “Enroll Now for 2018”

We've made some changes to our rack card and poster (three sizes: small, medium and large). Each piece contains a banner at the top saying “Enroll Now for 2018” highlighted with an attention-grabbing yellow background. These pieces should be used November through the end of the 2018 open enrollment period. Order these and other materials [here](#).

### New Giveaways, New Order Process

We've expanded our suite of giveaways to include “mop head” pens, stress balls, sidewalk chalk and ice packs. Pens, pencils, hand sanitizers and tissues are available as well. If you would like to order any of these items, please use the new Promotional Items section on our updated [Materials & Promotional Items Order Form](#). Note that some quantities may be limited.

**nystateofhealth**  
The Official Health Insurance Marketplace

**ENROLL NOW FOR 2018**

**You'd be surprised...**  
how easy it is to get a good, low-cost health plan.

At NY State of Health you'll find:

- Many quality health plans from brand-name companies
- Help paying for the plan you pick
- The Essential Plan for lower income individuals

Signing up is simple. Have this information ready for each member of your family:

- Birth dates
- Social security numbers or, for legal immigrants, document numbers if you have them
- Employment, income, and health insurance information

📞 1-855-355-5777 or TTY: 1-800-662-1220  
🌐 [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov)  
👤 With an in-person assistor

MORE >

## Plinko!



NY State of Health's “Plinko” board was a hit at the state fair. This interactive game allows assistors to start conversations with consumers that can lead to appointments or on-the-spot enrollments. If your organization is having a large-scale event, contact us about using the Plinko board at [nysohoutreach@health.ny.gov](mailto:nysohoutreach@health.ny.gov). We just ask that you return it promptly after your event in good condition so we can use it at future events.

## **NYS Provider & Health Plan Look-Up Update**

The NYS Provider & Health Plan Look-Up tool is growing in popularity with more than 50,000 users since its launch in May.

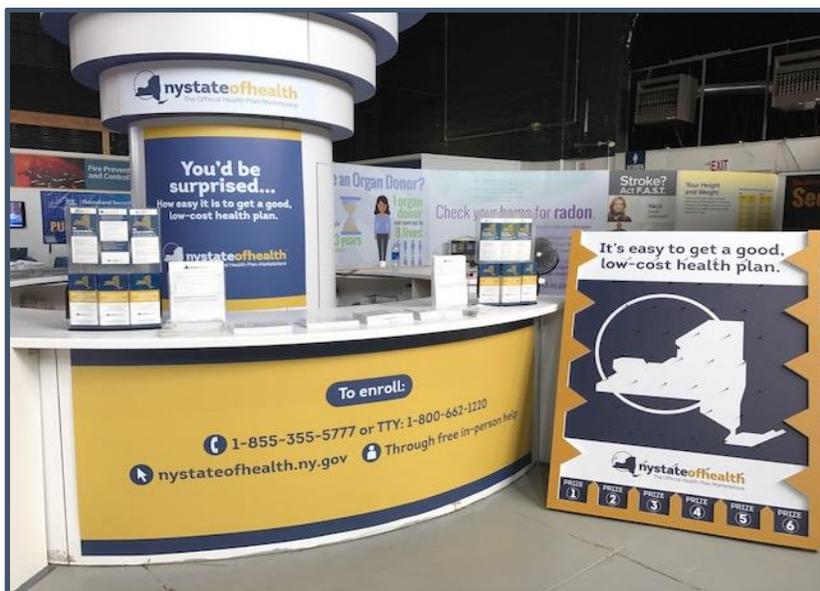
NYS Provider & Health Plan Look-Up Tool Benefits:

- Provides plan network information all in one place so consumers don't have to visit multiple plan websites
- People Can search by plan to see which providers participate or they can search by specific provider

Refer consumers to the tool [here](#).

## **EVENTS**

### **Event Update: The Great New York State Fair**



More than 15,000 State Fair attendees stopped by the NY State of Health booth (see photo above) between August 23-September 1 - that's about three times the number of people reached last year. This year's booth featured our Plinko board drawing long lines of contestants each day. More than 100 combined appointments (56) and lead cards (48) were obtained this year with 8 times more appointments made than last year. Thank you for helping to make the New York State Fair a success this year!

### **Upcoming Events**

**Fall Festivals** – NY State of Health will have informational tables at harvest festivals in areas with high uninsured rates.

**Pharmacy Retailers** – Informational tabling sessions will be held throughout Open Enrollment at several pharmacy retailers to educate consumers about the Marketplace.

Watch your in-box for emails containing links to sign up for these events. Remember to add your own events to the map by completing this [Events Map Submission Form](#).

## REMINDERS

### Facts About Temporary Agricultural Workers (H-2A Visa Holders) and Health Insurance

**Are H-2A visa holders eligible for health insurance coverage through NY State of Health?** Yes. Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), H-2A visa holders are eligible to enroll in Qualified Health Plans. Depending on income level, they may also be eligible for federal tax credits to reduce the monthly premium and cost-sharing reductions to help lower the cost of health care services. Those with incomes at or below 200% of federal poverty level are eligible for the Essential Plan.

**Are H-2A visa holders eligible for Medicaid?** No. Lower income H-2A visa holders would be eligible to enroll in Essential Plan, New York's Basic Health Program, not Medicaid.

**Will enrolling in a Qualified Health Plan or the Essential Plan impact an applicant's eligibility for an H-2A visa?** No. Enrolling in Qualified Health Plans or the Essential Plan will not impact an H-2A visa application. In fact, under the ACA, H-2A visa holders should enroll in one of these programs because they may be liable for a federal tax penalty under the ACA if they do not have health insurance.

**Is there any health benefit that could impact an H-2A visa application?** Yes. Some H-2A visa holders, who need long term care services that are not covered by Essential Plan may be eligible for Medicaid. Enrolling in Medicaid long term care services in a nursing home or mental health facility could make an applicant for an H-2A visa application inadmissible as a public charge.

For more information on eligibility for coverage for non-immigrant visa holders under the ACA, please see the Department of Health and Human Services information for applicants at <https://www.healthcare.gov/immigrants/lawfully-present-immigrants/>

### Assistor Certification Trainings

Trainings are for agencies seeking to become NY State of Health assistor agencies and individuals currently employed by NY State of Health assistor agencies.

There are two NY State of Health Assistor Certification training options:

- 1) Complete the [Online Assistor Training](#) or
- 2) Attend a three (3) day in-person session (below.)

#### October

- **New York, NY**
- Dates: October 17th to 19th (Tuesday- Thursday)
- Location: CAI, New York NY
- Address: 505 Eighth Avenue 20TH FL, Green Room) New York, NY 10018
- Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Doors open at 8:30 AM
  
- **Buffalo, NY**
- Dates: October 24th to October 26th (Tuesday – Thursday)
- Location: Courtyard Marriot Buffalo Airport

- Address: 4243 Genesee Street (Genesee Room) Buffalo, NY 14225
- Time: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, Doors open at 8:00 AM

Contact [Assistor.Admin@health.ny.gov](mailto:Assistor.Admin@health.ny.gov) to be set up as a new Assistor agency.

For more information, please contact:

Catherine Simmons: [Csimmons@caiglobal.org](mailto:Csimmons@caiglobal.org) or [Assistor.Admin@health.ny.gov](mailto:Assistor.Admin@health.ny.gov)

### **Waiting Periods May Apply for Dental Plans**

Please remind consumers who purchase dental plans through the Individual and Small Business Marketplaces, that in some instances, some or all dental coverage may not kick in right away. Although all Marketplace dental plans cover preventive services with no waiting periods. There may be waiting periods for other specific services.

Waiting periods do not apply to:

- Pediatric Dental Essential Health Benefits (all plans)
- Consumers who are re-enrolling with the same health plan issuer and met the previous waiting period.

For more detailed information on dental plans go to: [QHP Plan Map](#) and the [Essential Plan Map](#).

## **Tell us what you think!**

This newsletter is for you, so please let us know what you'd like it to include. Write to [NYSOHoutreach@health.ny.gov](mailto:NYSOHoutreach@health.ny.gov) with ideas for articles or suggestions for your fellow assistors regarding strategies you've found that work well in your community.