MORE THAN 140,000 COVERED SINCE MARYLAND HEALTH CONNECTION LAUNCHED COVID-19 SPECIAL ENROLLMENT ONE YEAR AGO

236,000 WHO STILL LACK COVERAGE COULD GET IT FOR FREE
OR WITH SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL HELP

(MARCH 17, 2021) BALTIMORE — Yesterday marked one year since the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange launched a Coronavirus Emergency Special Enrollment Period in response to the public health emergency declared by Gov. Larry Hogan.

Some 140,715 Marylanders have gained health insurance through the special enrollment. Many Marylanders who lacked coverage were able to enroll in private health plans outside the typical open enrollment period held each fall through the state-based marketplace, Maryland Health Connection.

"We are pleased to announce the tremendous response to this special enrollment period, which is one of the nation's longest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," Gov. Hogan said. "This program's success is a testament to our commitment to ensure Marylanders have access to the resources they need to weather the pandemic and come back stronger and healthier."

"We're happy that thousands were able to get coverage and peace of mind for themselves and their families during this difficult time," said Michele Eberle, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. "We're also thankful for the support and cooperation from the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Maryland Department of Health and our partner insurance companies CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Kaiser Permanente and UnitedHealthcare."

An estimated 236,000 Marylanders who remain without health coverage would be able to get coverage for free or with significant financial help, in many cases worth hundreds of dollars a month, according to Maryland Health Benefit Exchange analysis.

The Coronavirus Special Enrollment is currently scheduled to run through May 15.

People eligible for Medicaid can enroll year-round. Others will still be able to enroll in private coverage through Maryland Health Connection if they recently lost coverage through a "life change" event such as job loss or divorce.

Of the 140,715 who have enrolled since March 16, 2020, 92,327 qualified for free Medicaid coverage. The other 48,388 enrolled in private coverage. About 70 percent of them — 33,988 — received financial help to lower their out-of-pocket costs.

Also, 43,095 of the enrollees self-identified as Black or African-American. Another 17,466 enrollees self-identified as Hispanic. And 49,912 were young adults between 18 and 34 years old. These residents have lacked health insurance at levels greater than the general public.

Maryland Coronavirus Special Enrollment since March 16, 2020	
Statewide	140,715
Allegany	941
Anne Arundel	10,921
Baltimore County	19,597
Baltimore City	14,914
Calvert	1,423
Caroline	620
Carroll	2,278
Cecil	1,831
Charles	3,579
Dorchester	642
Frederick	4,829
Garrett	516
Harford	4,406
Howard	6,293
Kent	296

Montgomery	26,874
Prince George's	30,177
Queen Anne's	891
St. Mary's	1,450
Somerset	610
Talbot	670
Washington	3,131
Wicomico	2,535
Worcester	1,291

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Data 3/16/20-3/15/21

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Maryland Health Benefit Exchange is a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in 2011 to administer Maryland Health Connection.

Maryland Health Connection is the state-based marketplace for Marylanders to shop and enroll in health insurance, as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid and other assistance programs. It is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable.