

NEWS RELEASE

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February 12, 2020

Get Covered 2021 Coalition Lauds Biden Administration's National Special Enrollment Period and Stimulus Proposals: Helping More Americans Get Insured and Offering Financial Support During the Pandemic is the Right Thing to Do

- *The COVID-19 [Executive Order](#) signed by President Joe Biden activates a special three-month enrollment period from Feb. 15 to May 15 for Americans to get affordable, quality health care through their state's health insurance marketplace.*
- *28 million Americans currently are without health insurance. More than half of those uninsured – over 16 million – are eligible for financial help, or for free coverage through Medicaid. Marketing and outreach will help consumers know their options.*
- *Now is not the time to be sick and uninsured. Beyond the President's Order, his [American Rescue Plan](#) demonstrates a national commitment to providing even more financial help to make coverage affordable and promote economic recovery.*
- *The President's American Rescue Plan proposes to limit the cost of health care coverage to 8.5 percent of income for all eligible Americans, including those who make over 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level who previously received no assistance under the Affordable Care Act. These subsidies would offer immediate financial relief for Americans that have been hit hardest by the recession.*

WASHINGTON DC – Starting on Monday, Feb. 15, millions of Americans will have a new opportunity to enroll in health care insurance. COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on people's lives and triggered a national recession, which has cost many their jobs. Amid these challenges, access to quality care and affordable health insurance is critical, which is why President Joe Biden declared a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) and reopened federal health care marketplaces from Feb. 15 to May 15. The federal action has been joined by the 14 marketplaces, all of which will have SEPs into the coming months. The SEP will be supported, for the first time in four years, with a major nationwide marketing effort to make sure Americans know they have options for coverage.

In addition to the announced federal SEP, President Biden recently issued the American Rescue Plan, which includes a critical stimulus proposal to provide Americans with more financial help to get insured and stay insured.

“This Special Enrollment Period will give all Americans a chance to enroll in health care coverage and get much needed financial assistance,” said Peter V. Lee, Get Covered 2021 Co-Chair and Executive Director of Covered California. “We applaud President Biden’s actions and his commitment to do the national outreach that is essential to fostering more enrollment. Leaning in to help those who are uninsured get the financial help they need to get covered has never been so critical.”

Currently, 28 million Americans are without health insurance, and more than half of these uninsured are eligible for financial help, or free coverage through Medicaid. In an effort to reach Americans across the nation, the Biden administration has invested \$50 million to support in federal marketing and outreach to increase awareness of the SEP and bolster enrollment, particularly among those living in the 36 states served by the Federally Facilitated-Exchange. The previous administration failed to prioritize outreach and educate Americans living in these states, which resulted in 1.8 million fewer new enrollee sign-ups in 2020 than was the case in 2016.

“Americans now have another opportunity to seek quality, affordable health care coverage,” said Laura Packard, Get Covered 2021 Co-Chair and Executive Director for Get America Covered. “With increased outreach and education, we can help those who are uninsured understand their financial options and get them enrolled in health insurance. Now is not the time to be uninsured.”

The President’s American Rescue Plan proposes to limit the cost of health care coverage to 8.5 percent regardless of income. This would result in an immediate increase in subsidies for those under 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (equal to annual earnings of less than \$52,000 per year). For those earning over 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level in most of the nation, this would be the first time federal help was provided to help cover high health care costs.

“Americans have been hit hard by the pandemic,” said Carrie Banahan, Get Covered 2021 Co-Chair and Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. “Now we have an opportunity to get more people insured at a time when we need it the most.”

Get Covered 2021, a broad and diverse national coalition of states, bipartisan elected leaders, consumer and patient groups, health care providers and celebrity ambassadors urge Americans in need of health insurance to visit [GetCovered2021.org](https://www.getcovered2021.org), to learn about the financial options available and be directed to their state marketplace or www.healthcare.gov to enroll in coverage.

Get Covered 2021 has reached more than 200 million people through a national social media blitz campaign, promoting the message that financial help is available for millions of Americans

to make coverage affordable by sharing the website [GetCovered2021.org](https://www.GetCovered2021.org) (where consumers can be linked directly to enrollment help) and using the hashtag #GetCovered2021.

Get Covered 2021 coalition members include the American Public Health Association, American Heart Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Hospital Association, America's Physician Groups, American Cancer Society, Mental Health America, National Hispanic Medical Association, the Service Employees International Union, American Federation of Teachers, National Association of Community Health Centers and many more, along with 16 states, the District of Columbia and Get America Covered.

A diverse array of celebrity and athlete ambassadors have also joined on in support, including AJ Andrews, Odell Beckham Jr., Beth Behrs, Tanner Buchanan, Caron Butler, Shilique Calhoun, Charlie Carver, Max Carver, Stephen Curry, Freddy Galvis, Adrian Gonzalez, Mark Hamill, Ken Jeong, George Lopez, Danielle Macdonald, Angel McCoughtry, Alyssa Milano, Bill Pullman, CC Sabathia, Sarah Silverman, George Takei, Bradley Whitford and James Wilks. Ambassadors have provided their support using their unique platforms to educate and encourage people across the country to get covered.

To learn more about coverage options, visit www.GetCovered2021.org or www.Healthcare.gov.

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