



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

City of Charleston
South Carolina

BARBARA W. VAUGHN
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

FOR RELEASE: March 4, 2014

**CITY OF CHARLESTON PARTICIPATES WITH PALMETTO PROJECT
ON DAY OF ACTION**

Charleston, SC. There are only a few weeks left for open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace. The deadline for enrollment is March 31. The City of Charleston is participating with the Palmetto Project to sponsor a day for eligible residents to meet with a certified enrollment assister. This will be a national "Day of Action". The site for the opportunity will be at the Charleston Maritime Center at 10 Wharfside Drive from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 8.

Appointments are strongly encouraged. You can call this phone number to sign up for this event: 1-888-998-4646 or go to the website for all enrollment options: www.signupsc.org

The Marketplace is for uninsured people to find health coverage.

- Those with job-based health insurance can keep it.
- Those with Medicare are already covered and don't need to make any changes.
- Those who are enrolled in Medicaid are not eligible.

City of Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. added, "Having health insurance protects families from the potential of crippling financial debt caused by expensive medical bills. We are pleased to offer an opportunity as the deadline draws close to help our area residents get signed up."

Palmetto Project has 12 certified enrollment assisters on staff who are meeting with individuals every day to help them understand their options for health care coverage under the new law. All of those eligible for coverage must have taxable income. This is coverage for working people who may not be eligible for insurance through their employer or for whom the monthly insurance premium may be more than 9.5% of their gross family income. Shelli Quenga, Palmetto Project's director of programs and a certified assister, said, "Most of the premiums we see people choose are \$20-50/month, often with \$5 co-pays for primary care visits and deductibles of \$100-500."

All Affordable Care Act navigation and education services are available to the public at no charge.

FOR MORE INFO: Barbara Vaughn, Director
Media Relations/Public Information
Phone: (843) 724-3746 Fax: (843) 724-3734
Email: vaughnb@charleston-sc.gov