



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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# Open Enrollment is Here Time to Get Covered!

*Health Care Access Important for All San Franciscans*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 9, 2017) – San Franciscans can now sign up for affordable health insurance for 2018. Despite uncertainty at the federal level, the open enrollment period started as usual this month, and consumers are encouraged to enroll or re-enroll for health care coverage.

Tens of thousands of San Francisco residents will be able to join over four million people who now have affordable health coverage through California's implementation of the Affordable Care Act and Covered California, the State's health insurance marketplace. Over 37,000 San Francisco residents successfully signed up for or renewed qualified health insurance plans at Covered California last year. To avoid any gaps in coverage or a tax penalty, you must enroll by December 15, 2017 so coverage will begin on January 1, 2018. The deadline to renew or enroll in Covered California health insurance is January 31, 2018.

San Francisco aims to make the enrollment process as simple as possible for residents and the estimated 3.3% of San Franciscan's total population that is uninsured. Most people who are uninsured are unaware they qualify for low or no-cost health coverage.

Covered California insurers available to San Francisco residents in 2018 include Kaiser, Blue Shield, Chinese Community Health Plan, Health Net Life, and Oscar. Many residents are eligible for significant tax credits through Covered California to help pay the cost of these insurance plans. Due to larger tax credits, nearly four out of five people will see their monthly premiums stay the same or decrease. People can visit Covered California's "[Shop and Compare](#)" tool to review options for affordable health coverage.

"Now is the time for San Franciscans to take action and get covered," said Barbara Garcia, Director of Health. "Having access to health care does not have to be expensive or confusing, so sign up right now."

If you do not qualify for Covered California, there are more options. Medi-Cal, California's free health insurance available to those with low incomes, takes applications year-round. Children in low income families are eligible for Medi-Cal regardless of their immigration status. As Medi-Cal requires annual renewal, the [Human Services Agency](#) assists customers year-round in maintaining their benefits. Healthy San Francisco, the city's universal health access program, is still open and available for those who do not qualify for Covered California or Medi-Cal.

**Free and confidential enrollment help:** <https://storefronts.coveredca.com/>

**Covered California's website:** [www.CoveredCA.com](http://www.CoveredCA.com)

**Medi-Cal's website:** <http://www.medi-cal.ca.gov/>

**Healthy SF's website:** <http://healthysanfrancisco.org/>

**For SF local-in person enrollment assistance,** call (415) 558-4700 or visit [1400 Harrison St, San Francisco, CA 94103](#).