



# Important Health Insurance Information for Wisconsin Families

October 2017

*You can still get health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) for 2018.*

**OPEN ENROLLMENT  
November 1 to  
December 15, 2017**

Have questions about coverage for a child with a disability or special need?

**Call your Regional Center or Wisconsin First Step at 1-800-642-7837**

**Act fast!** The open enrollment window is six weeks long, which is shorter than last year. It ends on **December 15th**, so don't wait until the winter holidays to start shopping for insurance!

**Out of sight, out of mind.** You will not see advertising or reminders about signing up for insurance this year. The program is being "advertised" through word of mouth. Keep this flyer handy so you don't forget to sign up, and share it with others.

**Finding advice:** It may be harder to get help with your application this year. Go to "Find Local Help" at **[www.coveringwi.org/enroll](http://www.coveringwi.org/enroll)** to connect with a trained application assister. You can also call Covering Wisconsin, a state licensed navigator agency, at **608-261-1455** (Madison office) or **414-270-4677** (Milwaukee office). The longer you wait, the harder it may be to get an appointment.

**Financial help may be available.** Insurance is expensive, but financial help to pay for the monthly premium may be available to some families. You can find out if you qualify for help by going to **[www.healthcare.gov/lower-costs/](http://www.healthcare.gov/lower-costs/)**

**You and your child might qualify for Medicaid or BadgerCare.** You can apply for Medicaid at any time. Many children with special needs are eligible for Medicaid, including children who may qualify through the Katie Beckett Program - *eligibility through Katie Beckett is based on a child's disability and not the family's income.*

**\*\*To learn about public and private health insurance options, go to Paying for Health Care in WI at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/pay.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/guide/pay.htm)**

**Read the letters your insurance company sends this fall!**

If you bought a health plan through [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) last year, it will renew, but your company may make changes in prices or coverages for next year. You don't want to miss your opportunity to shop for a better plan!