



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
REGION II

New York • New Jersey • Puerto Rico • Virgin Islands

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<http://www.hhs.gov>

August 22, 2016

Dear Superintendent,

I hope you have had a safe and rewarding summer. As preparations for the new school year are underway, one topic that often is top of mind for parents and administrators is keeping students healthy and safe. Our office stands ready to help families in your district connect to health care access opportunities that have been expanded as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Over the past five years, more than 250,000 New Jersey residents have acquired health insurance through the Federal Marketplace, and over 450,000 more have gained access to care as a result of Medicaid expansion. The numbers of enrolled consumers are a testament to the need in our communities, but our work is far from finished.

The Affordable Care Act's next Open Enrollment Period will run from **November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017**. At the same time, enrollment for children through the state's Medicaid expansion program - Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) remains open year round. But there's no better time than back to school to get signed up.

Superintendents have consistently played a key role in sharing critical information and coalition building to ensure families in districts were well informed, and had the resources they needed to make the best decisions for their children and dependents. We hope that as you gear up for your activities for this school year, the district would take the following steps:

- Send out a district wide notice providing basic information on the options and resources that are available, both for the ACA and NJ FamilyCare
- Post information on your website, Facebook and other social media pages
- Host an enrollment event

For more information, including printable flyers that can be distributed in your district, please visit <https://marketplace.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/special-populations.html>

We stand ready to work with you in your district if there is any way we can be supportive. If you have the desire to share information or host events in your district, simply send an email to HHSReg2@hhs.gov or call the office (212-264-4600) and we can discuss what services and resources are available.

Sincerely,

Jackie Cornell-Bechelli
Regional Director