



PRESS RELEASE

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Community organizations to help explain new health insurance options *Rhode Island Health Center Association announces network of navigators*

Providence, RI – As a part of state-wide health reform efforts, the Rhode Island Health Center Association today announced a network of in-person navigators located at community organizations throughout the state to help Rhode Island consumers understand their new health insurance options. The network of navigators will provide reliable information about new health care options through HealthSource RI and Medicaid, and will assist Rhode Islanders who want to apply for health insurance. Many of Rhode Island's 128,000 uninsured will be eligible for health insurance coverage on January 1, 2014 and will be able to start enrolling on October 1, 2013.

Jane A. Hayward, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Health Center Association (RIHCA), said "we are pleased to have assembled a diverse network of community providers that has the ability to reach out to all corners of Rhode Island. Together, we will reach many different communities to let Rhode Islanders know about new affordable health insurance options that are available."

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network will conduct state-wide outreach and education about new health insurance options. One-on-one, in-person enrollment assistance will be available at all of Rhode Island's federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and at the following community organizations:

- Amos House
- Care New England
- Center for Southeast Asians
- Family Resources Community Action
- John Hope Settlement House
- Latino Public Radio
- Mental Health Association
- Narragansett Indian Health Center
- Providence Community Library
- The Providence Center
- United Way of RI

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“The Center for Southeast Asians (CSEA) is proud to be chosen as a navigator organization. We are committed to ensuring equitable access to affordable health insurance for members of our community,” said Channavy Chhay, Executive Director of the CSEA.

“This is a great opportunity for us to help Rhode Islanders make informed decisions about their health coverage,” said Anthony Maione, president & CEO, United Way of Rhode Island. “Our 2-1-1 staff have done an outstanding job in helping thousands of Rhode Islanders learn about resources that are available where they live. This role will enable us to help even more of our neighbors.”

Rhode Island’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) will participate in the navigator network, supported by federal funds awarded this summer for outreach and enrollment at FQHCs throughout the country. Rhode Island’s FQHCs are:

- Blackstone Valley Community Health Care
- Comprehensive Community Action/Family Health Services
- East Bay Community Action Program
- Providence Community Health Centers
- Thundermist Health Center
- Tri-Town Community Action Agency
- WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care
- Wood River Health Services

The remaining community organizations will be supported with funding through RIHCA’s contract with HealthSource RI and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. RIHCA was awarded the network manager contract earlier this summer by HealthSource RI and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. As the network manager, RIHCA will coordinate outreach and enrollment activities for the entire navigator network.

About the Rhode Island Health Center Association

Rhode Island’s nine community health centers, including eight federally qualified health centers and one island-based health center, served nearly 135,000 Rhode Islanders in 2012 at 29 office locations throughout the state. The health centers have a long history of providing high-quality, low-cost primary health care to Rhode Islanders. The centers are non-profit, safety-net primary care providers that serve patient populations who otherwise confront financial, geographic, language and cultural barriers accessing health care services. They provide care for Rhode Islanders who are uninsured, underinsured, privately insured and publicly insured.