$http://theworldlink.com/bandon/news/sign-up-for-health-insurance-by-dec/article_ac44f6b2-8194-5e2d-a0f5-c820c8ee41db.html$

Sign up for 2018 health insurance by Dec. 15

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Certified Application Assister, Lennae Wright, at a community event. Contributed photo

BANDON – Health insurance open enrollment ends Dec. 15. Staff at Coast Community Health Center can help South Coast residents check eligibility and apply for private 2018 Health Insurance Marketplace policies. Insurance plans start Jan. 1 for those who sign up during open enrollment.

The health center's enrollment assisters are trained and ready to offer free, confidential guidance. Insurance enrollment sessions are available by appointment at Coast Community Health Center offices in Bandon and Port Orford. Or, visit a drop-in session at community locations in Bandon, Langlois and Port Orford. Visit coastcommunityhealth.org for dates and locations, or call 541-347-2529 in Bandon, 541-332-1114 in Port Orford.

The enrollment period is shorter this year, closing before the Christmas holiday. Enrollment in 2018 private or Marketplace plans closes Dec. 15. Those with secure Internet access can learn more about Federal Marketplace plans online at healthcare.oregon.gov.

Those who qualify for OHP can enroll any time, but policies must be renewed annually. OHP is the state's Medicaid program for lowincome residents from all walks of life, including adults and children. All youth under the age of 18 are eligible. Families are encouraged to check eligibility for the children in their households, even if they're already covered by another insurance plan. A secondary OHP plan can cover gaps in private insurance, or cover costs for common medical needs when the child hasn't met the annual deductible for their private plan.

Coast Community Health Center staff help patients and community members stay healthy with access to more affordable health care. Enrollment assistance is a free community service supported by grant funds from the Oregon Health Authority.

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