



Connecticut's Official Health Insurance Marketplace

**For Immediate Release**

**ACCESS HEALTH CT ENROLLS 1,429 CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS IN QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE DURING SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD**

*Residents took advantage of extra opportunity to enroll and avoid tax penalty next year*

**Hartford, Conn. (May 5, 2015)** – Access Health CT (AHCT) today announced that they enrolled 1,429 Connecticut residents during the Special Open Enrollment Period which began April 1, 2015 and ended April 30, 2015. The special enrollment period was open to individuals who did not have health care coverage in 2014 and were subject to a penalty on their 2014 federal taxes.

“As the tax filing deadline approached, we knew some people would realize that they would have to pay a fee or claim an exemption for not having healthcare coverage last year,” said Jim Wadleigh, AHCT CEO. “We wanted to give those individuals an extra opportunity to enroll and avoid the tax penalty next year. We were very pleased to see so many people take advantage of the Special Enrollment Period.”

During the Special Enrollment Period 1,429 people enrolled in private health care plans (QHP). To be eligible for this special enrollment, individuals had to demonstrate that they were uninsured and not enrolled in coverage for 2015, and:

- Attest that when they filed their 2014 tax return they paid the fee for not having health coverage in 2014; and
- Attest that they first became aware of, or understood the implications of, the Shared Responsibility Payment after the end of open enrollment (February 15, 2015) in connection with preparing their 2014 taxes.

Individuals who did not qualify for an exemption and went without health care coverage in 2014 had to pay a fee of \$95 per adult or 1 percent of their income, whichever was greater. The fee increases to \$325 per adult or 2% of income for 2015.

**About Access Health CT**

Access Health CT (AHCT), Connecticut's official health insurance marketplace, is a quasi-public agency created by the Connecticut legislature in 2011 to satisfy requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act. AHCT's mission is to increase the number of insured residents in Connecticut, promote health, lower costs, and eliminate health disparities. Connecticut residents and small business owners can compare and enroll in health care coverage and apply for tax credits for individuals through AHCT. AHCT (or the Marketplace) also coordinates eligibility and enrollment with state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs. For more information, please visit [www.AccessHealthCT.com](http://www.AccessHealthCT.com), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AccessHealthCT](http://www.facebook.com/AccessHealthCT) and follow us on Twitter @AccessHealthCT.

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