



FLORIDA HEALTH JUSTICE PROJECT

Dear Friends:

As we turn the corner on what has been a difficult year, Florida Health Justice Project continues to work hard to assure access to affordable healthcare for all Floridians.

We are reaching out to you again to provide information on healthcare programs, resources and other information you may find helpful as we all continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic, including where to get vaccines, and how to access low-cost or free healthcare. This newsletter also has information on how to sign up for healthcare insurance and other programs, including those for seniors.

Get health insurance: www.healthcare.gov.

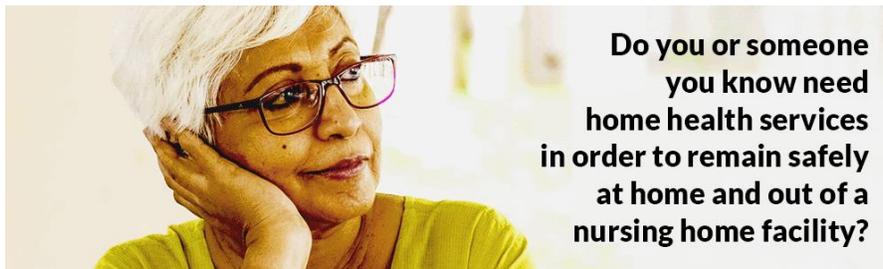
You can enroll in an Affordable Care Act Marketplace health plan with more savings through **August 15, 2021** due to the [coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) emergency](#). After August 15, you can apply if you have certain life changes or qualify for Medicaid or CHIP. More people, including [those who received unemployment](#) in 2020-2021, now qualify for subsidies and plans with new, lower costs.

There are several ways to apply and enroll:

- Apply online at www.healthcare.gov
- Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596; help is available in 200 languages!
- Find help through an agent/broker: Healthcare.gov/find-assistance/.

Uninsured: Options for access to affordable healthcare.

You can apply for [Medicaid](#) anytime in Florida if you fall into one of these categories: people with disabilities or over 65, former foster children until age 26, pregnant women or extremely low-income parents qualify. In addition, financial assistance for medical care is available at some local hospitals. In Miami, for example, Jackson Health has a financial assistance program as a designated [local charity care hospital](#). Uninsured Florida residents can also access low-cost healthcare at [Federally Qualified Health Centers](#) in their communities.



Florida's front-line workers are most likely to be uninsured

According to a [new report](#) by [Georgetown University Center for Children and Families](#), almost half of all adults working in Florida without health insurance are employed in the hospitality, retail, and administrative/support/waste management service industries, including cashiers, cooks, waiters and waitresses, retail salespersons, and construction workers, all essential jobs during the pandemic.

If Florida expanded Medicaid, approximately 789,800 uninsured workers caught in the “coverage gap,” (earning too much for Medicaid but too little to qualify for a subsidized Affordable Care Act policy), or 33 percent of the state’s uninsured adult population, would gain health insurance. Despite generous new financial incentives for expansion in the American Rescue Plan, as well as [nearly \\$200 million annually in savings](#) the state could see even without the new financial incentives, Florida remains one of 12 states that haven’t expanded Medicaid. More info here: <https://www.floridapolicy.org/posts/medicaid-expansion-would-help-floridas-essential-workers>

Hurricane Preparedness:

Make a plan if disaster strikes. Know which types of disasters could affect your area and how you’ll contact loved ones and caregivers and reconnect if separated. More info: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/family-plan/>

Disaster Preparedness for Older Floridians

The [Florida Department of Elder Affairs](#) provides a disaster resource guide for older adults. The guide, available in both English and Spanish, provides information on protecting your documents, special needs registries and much, much more! Click [here](#) for the [Disaster Resource Guide](#).

Covid-19 vaccines, treatment and costs

Getting vaccinated for Covid-19 is more important than ever with the spread of the new, more contagious Delta variant. Vaccines are free, easily available and safe. The [federal government](#) is providing vaccines free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status. Find out where to get vaccinated close to you: <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/>

Homebound seniors - If you, or someone you know, is unable to leave the house, let the vaccine come to you. Residents may call 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) or email homeboundvaccine@em.myflorida.com to set up a free appointment.

Surprise bills for Covid-19 testing or treatment

Did you receive a surprise bill for a Covid-19 test or hospital stay? Know your rights. https://www.floridahealthjustice.org/uploads/1/1/5/5/115598329/surprise_billing_flyer.pdf



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Florida's Seniors can get Home Healthcare Help

FHJP has developed a consumer flyer on Medicaid Home & Community Based Services (HCBS): "Know Your Rights", a [consumer HCBS information video](#) and a more detailed "Advocate's Guide to the Florida Long-Term Care Waiver." Information is provided to both caretakers and their advocates on applying for the program and trouble-shooting problems.

[Contact us](#) if you or a family member need home and community based services in order to stay at home and out of a nursing home. Sharing your story—in your words and your voice—is part of the solution.

The Florida Stories Project

Florida Health Justice Project continues to advocate for expanded Medicaid by sharing the stories of uninsured Floridians, including low wage workers and parents, older Floridians, and people struggling with sickness or people struggling with physical or mental illness..

<https://www.floridahealthstories.org/medicaid-expansion>

We also tell the stories of those who have benefitted from Medicaid coverage, including parents of children on Medicaid.

<https://www.floridahealthstories.org/medicaid-the-lived-experience>

We share all of these stories at www.floridahealthstories.org.

Contact us if you or a family member need health care and are:

1. Impacted by Covid-19.
2. Struggling with injury or illness, including mental illness.
3. A low-income worker.
4. A parent of a minor child.
5. An uninsured Floridian between the ages of 50-64.

Do you want to share your story?

Go to: <https://www.floridahealthstories.org/share-your-story>

Sign-up For Email Updates

<https://floridahealthjustice.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=2919eac93947b97bb23511355&id=079ec9377b>

The Florida Health Justice Project, a nonprofit organization, recognizes that access to quality and affordable health care is a human right and engages in comprehensive advocacy to expand healthcare access and promote health equity for vulnerable Floridians.

Tanpri kontakte Florida Health Justice Project si ou ta renmen li enfòmasyon sa yo an kreyòl ayisyen (Please contact Florida Health Justice Project if you would like to read this information in Haitian-Creole.)

Best regards,

Blanca Mesa, Esq.
Outreach and Communications Specialist
Florida Health Justice Project

Read [Stories](#) About Real People In the Healthcare Insurance Gap
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www.FloridaHealthJustice.org