



April 4, 2014

To All of Our Many Partners:

The End of Open Enrollment and Moving to New Phase: Congratulations and Thanks from Covered California and Department of Health Care Services

Monday marked the end of California's and the nation's first open enrollment period, and we are now beginning our work on the next chapter in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. We've come a long way very quickly, and California has a lot of which to be proud. We should be proud not only because we launched the implementation on time and with immediate results, but also because you – the thousands who educated, engaged and enrolled individuals across the state – overcame so many obstacles to make a huge difference for Californians.

As of Monday, over 1.2 million California consumers have enrolled and selected a health plan in Covered California, and more than 1.9 million have enrolled in coverage through Medi-Cal. More will be finishing their enrollment in the coming weeks, and many more will be enrolling in Medi-Cal throughout the year. Many of those who are getting coverage are finding out about the security of health care coverage for the first time in their lives. For them, the individuals and families who now no longer need to worry about whether they have access to health care, this is a new and better day. All of this would not have been possible without the dedication and work of insurance agents, county and state workers, community-based front-line workers – some of whom are certified as educators and enrollment counselors, and others who volunteered to set up and run enrollment events – staff in clinics, health plans and many, many more. Your unwavering commitment has made the difference; you've played a key role in improving the lives of many Californians – and you've made history.

We'd like you to know how much we at Covered California and the Department of Health Care Services value everything you've been doing to achieve success for our common cause – expanding health care coverage.

At DHCS, we are continuing our work to complete the enrollment of many who have been determined likely eligible, and our ongoing work with the counties to be sure that once enrolled, consumers get the information they need to choose a managed care plan. This will happen throughout the year and beyond as we are open for enrollment year-round.

At Covered California, we now turn our attention to helping enroll individuals and families who experience a life-changing event that qualifies them for special enrollment, and to helping those who began the application process before March 31 but were not able to finish. We also are turning our attention to preparing for the NEXT open enrollment, which will begin in the Fall. We hope to build on the lessons learned from this first round as we all seek to move California toward an environment in which everyone benefits from the coverage now available to them.

Thank you again for being a part of California's historic effort to expand coverage and make sure that those who enroll receive the quality care they deserve.

Sincerely,



Toby Douglas
Director
Department of Health Care Services



Peter V. Lee
Executive Director
Covered California