



Peter V. Lee
Executive Director

April 4, 2014

To Our Partner Counties:

Monday, the close of Covered California's first open enrollment period, marked the end of just one aspect of California's launch of health care reform. For the other half of the equation, Medi-Cal enrollment will continue all year, thanks in large part to the indispensable support and expertise of California's counties. As we have for nearly 50 years, we will continue our partnership that makes quality health care coverage available to those who qualify. We should all take just a brief moment to reflect upon what we have accomplished and take pride in how our partnership is transforming the health of California for the better.

As of March 31, about 3.2 million Californians have enrolled in health coverage since October 1, 2013, including 1.9 million in Medi-Cal. Many of these new enrollees in health coverage were helped significantly by the work of dedicated public servants at county human services agencies. That's an incredible accomplishment that wouldn't have been possible without your participation. You continue, each and every day, to find solutions to the obstacles presented by the Affordable Care Act's new requirements and the development and implementation of an entirely new electronic enrollment technology. There's no question that all of you have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We thank you, and we want to ensure you recognize the tremendous admiration we have for your service.

Going forward, we know that you are working as quickly as possible to process the applications of those new to the system and of those who applied, but are pending the completion of the full process. We stand ready to do our part to speed the process along, and we have full confidence that together we will resolve any issues that have made the process lengthier than expected.

At Department of Health Care Services, we are continuing our work with you to complete the enrollment of many who have been determined likely eligible, and we stand ready to help ensure that their coverage is accessible and responsive to their needs. We want them to experience the security that health coverage brings. Our ongoing work with you, our partner counties, will help ensure that once enrolled, consumers can get the information they need to choose a managed care plan so they may access and receive the quality services they need and deserve. This will happen all year as Medi-Cal is open for enrollment year-round.



Toby Douglas
Director

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Additionally, we are continuing our efforts to work with you on the 2014 renewal process for consumers already enrolled in Medi-Cal.

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 unable to finish. We are also turning our attention to preparing for the next open enrollment, which will begin this 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 vital part of California's historic effort to expand health coverage. We owe you a great debt of gratitude for your contributions to the health and well-being of all Californians.

Sincerely,



Toby Douglas
Director
Department of Health Care Services



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