

**For Immediate Release**

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**Enroll America’s Get Covered Academy Comes to Mississippi**

**Hattiesburg, Miss.** – In the wake of United Healthcare exiting Mississippi’s Health Insurance Marketplace, health and community organization representatives from across the state prepared for the 2017 open enrollment period by participating in Enroll America’s Get Covered Academy.

Enroll America’s Get Covered Academy is a two-day training and yearlong coaching program for community organizations involved in assisting consumers with Health Insurance Marketplace enrollment and education. Mississippi is just one of twenty-four communities nationwide selected to host the training.

The Mississippi Health Advocacy Program and Health Help Mississippi partnered to bring Enroll America’s Get Covered Academy to Mississippi to ensure that organizations from all over the state would have the best tools and resources available to assist consumers with enrolling and using Health Insurance Marketplace coverage. While the training traditionally focuses on best practices for getting consumers enrolled in Marketplace coverage, there was also a heavy emphasis on engaging and educating consumers about their health coverage after they’ve already enrolled.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 108,672 Mississippians enrolled in Marketplace coverage during the 2016 open enrollment period. However, by March 31, 2016, only 77,747 Mississippians were still enrolled. In other words, while many Mississippians chose to enroll or re-enroll in 2016 Marketplace coverage, nearly 28 percent dropped or lost their coverage. Debbie Smith, program manager of Health Help Mississippi’s Hattiesburg office, said to combat this loss of coverage, consumers need to be aware of how to use their plan effectively and know where to seek assistance if they have any problems using their health coverage.

“Health insurance is hard for most people to understand, but it can be even more difficult for people who are new to insurance like many of the Mississippians enrolled in the Health Insurance Marketplace,” said Smith. “That’s why our program offers free assistance for consumers that need more help in understanding how use their health coverage or when problems arise such as health insurance claim denials.”

Consumers that need help in getting enrolled or understanding their Marketplace coverage can contact Health Help Mississippi. Health Help Mississippi’s Hattiesburg office is located at 4900 Old Highway 11, Suite 4. Consumers can visit the office in person, or call 601-264-8686 for assistance.

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**About Health Help Mississippi**

*Health Help Mississippi (HHM) is a non-profit consumer assistance program committed to providing assistance, resources and health education to individuals, families and small businesses as they navigate the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. HHM is designed to serve those who need assistance with enrollment, claims, denials and disputes. Those needing assistance can call the statewide toll-free number, 1-877-314-3843 or visit* [*healthhelpms.org*](http://www.healthhelpms.org/) *for more information.*