

# HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs News Bulletin: Friday, October 04, 2013

Visit [HHS.gov/Healthcare](http://HHS.gov/Healthcare) and [CuidadodeSalud.Gov](http://CuidadodeSalud.Gov), two consumer-focused health care websites to: [find insurance options](#), [compare care quality](#), and [learn about the law](#). How is the Affordable Care Act helping you? Share your story [here](#).

## Secretary's Corner

- **October 1, 2013**  
Secretary Sebelius posted a blog titled "What Does the Health Insurance marketplace Mean for You?" "Over the next two weeks, we are going to be highlighting the stories of individual Americans who will benefit from the law." Read the first story [here](#).
- **September 30, 2013**  
Secretary Sebelius posted a blog to make sure moms across the country understand the new opportunities for their families as we approach the beginning of open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace. View the blog [here](#).
- **September 30, 2013**  
Secretary Sebelius today recognized more than 900 Champions for Coverage nationwide. "A network of volunteers on the ground in every state – health care providers, business leaders, faith leaders, community groups, advocates, and local elected officials – can help spread the word and encourage their neighbors to get enrolled," said Secretary Sebelius. Read more [here](#).

## Affordable Care Act News

- **October 3, 2013**  
Malik is a 24 year-old bartender and server from Pennsylvania who was uninsured and on a tight budget when he hurt his foot, forcing him to make a difficult choice – work through the pain or miss out on a paycheck. Read Malik's story of how thanks to the Health Insurance Marketplace he finally found insurance [here](#).
- **October 1, 2013**  
For the first time ever, today all Americans can begin shopping for quality health coverage that is affordable, and not be denied or charged more because they have a pre-existing condition. "For years, the financial, physical or mental health of millions of Americans suffered because they couldn't afford the care they or their family needed," said U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "But thanks to the health care law, all of that is changing. Today's launch begins a new day when health care coverage will be more accessible and affordable than ever before." To read the release click [here](#).

## Health Care Blog Posts

- **October 2, 2013**  
Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, uninsured Americans, including those with pre-existing conditions, are able to shop for more accessible and affordable coverage at Healthcare.gov. Read Jill's amazing story of how she can now find health insurance despite having a pre-existing heart condition [here](#).

➤ **October 1, 2013**

The Health Insurance Marketplace is open! You can now enroll in a health insurance plan that covers essential benefits, pre-existing conditions, and preventive services. For information on things you can do before you apply, click [here](#).

## **White House Health Care Blog Posts**

➤ **October 2, 2013**

Ashleigh Smith posted a blog on how the new Health Insurance Marketplaces opened for business as part of the Affordable Care Act. During the first 24 hours of open enrollment, there was overwhelming interest, as 4.7 million people visited HealthCare.gov. And by Wednesday afternoon, more than 6.1 people had visited the site. More information available [here](#).

➤ **September 29, 2013**

Ezra Mechaber posted a blog comparing the old health insurance application with the simpler new health insurance marketplace application. View his post [here](#).

➤ **September 27, 2013**

Alicia Oken posted a blog titled "No one should go broke just because they get sick." View the blog along with a video of President Obama discussing health care reform in America [here](#).

## **Educational Materials**

*Below you'll find materials related to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.*

### **Info-Graphs**

*View all our Flickr Info-Graphs page [here](#).*

## **Public Service Announcement/Address**

### **Health Insurance Marketplace**

*For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace including official resources, research, news, and events visit <http://marketplace.cms.gov/>*

### **Marketplace Updates**

*For information on how to sign up for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including text message and email updates visit <http://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace/index.html>*

### **State by State Fact Sheets**

*Choose your state to learn more about the immediate benefits of the Affordable Care Act, <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/index.html>*