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## NEWS RELEASE

**For release:** March 23, 2015  
**Expires:** April 18, 2015  
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### COVERING KIDS & FAMILIES OF NORTHEAST INDIANA RECOGNIZES ACA ANNIVERSARY, OFFERS HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

**FT WAYNE, IN.** – Today, in recognition of the five-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act, Amanda Chappell, local coalition director of Covering Kids & Families of Northeast Indiana, announced that in Ft. Wayne and the surrounding area more than 13,332 people signed up for health care coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace. Nationwide, more than 16.4 million people have gained coverage since the ACA passed. This is the largest reduction in the uninsured since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid.

“The Affordable Care Act has provided an opportunity for every citizen to have access to the resources needed for maximal health and well-being,” said **Deborah McMahan, MD, Allen County Health Commissioner**. “But those resources might go underutilized if it wasn’t for the free enrollment assistance offered by the agencies that make up Covering Kids & Families of Northeast Indiana. As more people get enrolled in the system and get access to healthcare, our ability to improve our health outcomes and subsequent productivity significantly increases.”

“These historic enrollment numbers show that the American people know the ACA is working for them,” said **US Dept. of Health and Human Services Region 5 Director Kathleen Falk**. “Thanks to the ACA people can no longer be denied health care because of a preexisting condition, healthcare spending is at the lowest rate in 50 years, and people no longer need to worry about being one illness away from bankruptcy.”

As a result of the ACA the almost 3 million people in Indiana with a pre-existing health condition can no longer be denied health care coverage. Millions of Americans, and almost 3 million Hoosiers, who already had insurance have seen their coverage improve because they now have access to preventive services like vaccines, cancer screenings, and yearly wellness visits at no out-of-pocket cost. And since the ACA allows young adults to stay on their parents’ plan until they turn 26, 62,000 young adults in Indiana gained coverage.

Nationwide, nearly 11.7 million consumers selected a plan or were automatically enrolled in Marketplace coverage. These enrollments contributed to the 7.1 percent drop in the uninsured rate since the ACA was passed.

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In Indiana, 219,185 consumers selected plans or were automatically re-enrolled in quality, affordable health insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace as of Feb. 22, according to HHS. Additionally, more than eight out of ten Hoosiers could select a Marketplace plan for \$100 or less per month, and a vast majority of enrollees received an average tax credit of \$319.

Open enrollment in the Marketplace has ended, but a Special Enrollment Period is now available to consumers who are subject to the fee for not having health care coverage in 2014. If you were unaware of or didn't understand the implications of the new requirement, you have until April 30<sup>th</sup> to enroll. To find help in Indiana, call 2-1-1 to get an appointment with a licensed Indiana Navigator near you. Consumers can also visit HealthCare.gov to learn more or call the federally-facilitated Marketplace call center at 1-800-318-2596.

Covering Kids and Families of Northeast Indiana (CKF-NEIN) invites the public to attend Super Saturday to learn more about options for health insurance. Attendees will meet one-on-one with a licensed Indiana Navigator to ask questions, view available options, and complete the enrollment process. Super Saturday will take place on:

- Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>; 9:00 am – 12: 00 pm; Ivy Tech Northeast (Room 2318, Coliseum Campus) – 3800 N Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne

For additional information or to schedule an interview with the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services Region V Director Kathleen Falk please call 312-226-2896 or e-mail [anmarie.schult.slosser@hhs.gov](mailto:anmarie.schult.slosser@hhs.gov)

Covering Kids & Families of Northeast Indiana is a Local Coalition made up of partners that are committed to ensuring that all Northeast Indiana children, adults, and families eligible for health care coverage are enrolled. CKF-NEIN provides FREE enrollment assistance in Allen, Dekalb, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, and Whitley Counties.

<http://www.ckfindiana.org/coalitions/northeast-in/>

CANI helps communities, families, and individuals remove the causes and conditions of poverty. For more information about CANI and the services provided, see [www.canihelp.org](http://www.canihelp.org).

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