

**Open Enrollment** to select health care coverage for Calendar Year 2020 through the Marketplace began November 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 15<sup>th</sup>. If an individual does not have *safe* access to affordable coverage through their employer or spouse for themselves or their children, the Marketplace- [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)- is the centralized place to enroll in a plan. The enrollment process includes the determination as to whether an individual or family is eligible for Medicaid or CHIP or to receive a subsidy or premium tax credit based on their income.

Open Enrollment, ending Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, is the single opportunity to enroll, re-enroll or change a plan for CY20 unless individuals are eligible for Special Enrollment.

### **Special Enrollment**

Individuals may enroll or change a Health Insurance Marketplace Plan outside of the Open Enrollment Period only if they have a life event which qualifies them to do so. More information about the qualifying life events that allow for Special Enrollment may be found here. Note: An individual may apply for Medicaid or CHIP for themselves or their children at any time. See the Health Care section of HHSC's website to learn more and apply for coverage and services provided by the State of Texas.

### **Domestic Violence**

Experiencing domestic violence or spousal abandonment constitutes a complicated case that allows for Special Enrollment. This means survivors may enroll for themselves and their children at any time- even if they remain married or living with their abusive partners. Below are excerpted from [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) regarding the allowances for survivors.

*If you're a survivor of domestic abuse/violence or spousal abandonment and want to enroll in your own health plan separate from your abuser or abandoner. You can enroll by contacting the Marketplace Call Center. Your dependents may be eligible too.*

*If you're married to your abuser/abandoner, you can answer on your Marketplace application that you're unmarried, without fear of penalty for mis-stating your marital status. You then become eligible for a premium tax credit and other savings on a Marketplace plan, if you qualify based on your income.*

See Assisting Victims of Domestic Violence slide deck by CMS for more information.

### **Assisters**

Because navigating the Marketplace and selecting a plan can be complicated, community groups throughout the state are acting as 'assisters.' Assisters are certified entities trained to help Texans apply and enroll in a health plan with savings or apply for Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). They are required to provide fair, impartial, and accurate information, free of charge.

The following resources are available to help Texans connect with local organizations that provide enrollment assistance:

- **Austin:** Call 2-1-1 or [insurecentraltexas.org](http://insurecentraltexas.org). Organizations providing assistance include Foundation Communities, Central Health, and Light and Salt.
- **Dallas:** Call 2-1-1 or visit <http://bit.ly/2P5JAUj>. Organizations providing assistance include Parkland Health and Hospital System, Light and Salt, and the Office of County Judge Clay Jenkins.
- **El Paso:** Visit <https://www.enrollelpasso.org/>. Organizations providing assistance include Centro San Vicente.

- **Gulf Coast/Houston:** Visit [enrollgulfcoast.com](http://enrollgulfcoast.com) (832) 393-5423. Organizations providing assistance include the Houston Health Department, Legacy Community Health, Change Happens, and Light and Salt.
- **Rio Grande Valley:** Call (956) 246-4125
- **San Antonio:** Call 2-1-1 or visit [enrollsa.com](http://enrollsa.com). Organizations providing assistance include CentroMed.
- **Other parts of Texas:** Texans living outside of the areas listed above should contact their local community health centers for in-person assistance. Texans can use [MyTexasMyHealth.org](http://MyTexasMyHealth.org) to search for their local community health center. [HealthCare.Gov](http://HealthCare.Gov) has a tool to [Find Local Help](#). To filter results so that only the trained assisters from local community-based organizations are visible, you can remove the "Agent or Broker" box under "Filter," so that only the "Assisters" box is showing.

**TCFV is here to help!**

Please reach out to TCFV Policy Manager, [Krista Del Gallo](mailto:Krista.DelGallo@tcfv.org), if you or your staff have questions and / or for help in connecting with local assisters.

Krista Del Gallo  
 Policy Manager  
 Texas Council on Family Violence  
 512.685.6203 *direct office line*

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
 1.800.799.7233  
[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

National Dating Abuse Helpline  
 Text *love is* to 22522  
[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

---

You are currently subscribed to edlistserv as: [shelli.shields@graysoncrisiscenter.org](mailto:shelli.shields@graysoncrisiscenter.org).

To unsubscribe click here:

<https://listmanager.tcfv.org/u?id=110063325.73bbc2062af017a40417f1165f6331ba&n=T&l=edlistserv&o=5528334>

(It may be necessary to cut and paste the above URL if the line is broken)

or send a blank email to [leave-5528334-110063325.73bbc2062af017a40417f1165f6331ba@listmanager.tcfv.org](mailto:leave-5528334-110063325.73bbc2062af017a40417f1165f6331ba@listmanager.tcfv.org)