

INFORMATION NOTICE

WORKFORCE SERVICES

Number: WSIN13-71

Date: June 12, 2014

Expiration Date: 7/12/16

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: COVERED CALIFORNIA™: AN ALTERNATIVE TO COBRA

The purpose of this Information Notice is to inform the Workforce Development Community of two special enrollment periods available through Covered California™ to individuals who have a change in employment status and lose employer provided health insurance.

Individuals eligible to purchase Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) continuation health coverage have the option to instead enroll in a [Covered California™](#) health plan. The following two special enrollment periods are available to these individuals:

1. Special enrollment period for individuals already enrolled in COBRA:

This is a limited, one-time opportunity available through July 15, 2014. Individuals currently enrolled in COBRA may cancel their coverage and replace it with a Covered California™ health plan. After July 15, individuals who cancel their COBRA and wish to enroll in a Covered California™ plan, must wait until the next Covered California™ open enrollment period to do so (fall of each year).

2. Special enrollment period for individuals who become eligible for COBRA:

This ongoing opportunity is available to individuals for a period of 60 days after they lose employer provided health insurance. During this special enrollment period, an individual may enroll in a Covered California™ health plan instead of purchasing COBRA continuation health coverage. If individuals do not enroll in a Covered California™ health plan during this period and later wish to, they must wait until the next Covered California™ open enrollment period to do so (fall of each year).

America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM staff are encouraged to inform job seekers about Covered California™ health plans as an alternative to COBRA health care coverage. Staff may direct individuals to the Covered California™ [website](#) or call 888-975-1142 toll-free.

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief
Workforce Services Division

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.