

INFORMATION NOTICE

WORKFORCE SERVICES

Number: WSIN13-8
Date: August 8, 2013

Expiration Date: Permanent

69:01:df:16438

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE FOR JOB SEEKERS AND

BUSINESSES

On July 29, 2013, the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, published Training and Employment Notice <u>02-13</u>. It provides information on how to be prepared to share information on the new health insurance coverage opportunities found in the <u>Health Insurance Marketplace</u> which will be opening October 2013. This is one of the key components of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Notice identifies various actions that the public workforce system can take to raise awareness of the new health insurance options becoming available through the ACA.

As a result of the passage of the ACA, the California Health Benefit Exchange launched Covered California™ as the marketplace for the estimated 5.3 million uninsured Californians to compare health plans, determine if they are eligible for financial assistance, and enroll in a health plan. Starting in October 2013, individuals and small businesses will be able to enroll in affordable health insurance providing coverage beginning in January 2014.

America's Job Center of California staff is encouraged to help educate job seekers and small businesses about Covered California[™] as a resource to help make informed decisions about health care coverage options. Staff may direct individuals to the Covered California[™] website at www.CoveredCA.com or call (888) 975-1142 toll-free. Staff can provide helpful fact sheets regarding the program, financial assistance, and services for small businesses. There is also a cost-estimate calculator to help estimate the cost of health insurance. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Insurance Marketplace offers marketing materials such as posters, brochures, and other educational resources electronically, and in several languages.

For more information, please visit <u>Covered California</u>™ or call (888) 975-1142.

/S/ JOSÉ LUIS MÁRQUEZ, Chief Workforce Services Division

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