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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT NOW UNDER WAY TO PURCHASE 2022 COVERAGE

Greenville, N.C. – Open Enrollment (OE) to choose an Affordable Care Act (ACA) health-insurance plan for 2022 on the federal Health Insurance Marketplace has begun as of Nov. 1, the traditional starting date. This new OE, however, will run a month longer than have OEs in the last several years, ending Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022.

Consumers will have to enroll in an ACA insurance plan by Dec. 15, however, if they wish to have coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2022.

Greenville-based nonprofit Access East’s Certified Marketplace Navigators program will again provide free ACA assistance, including enrollment assistance to consumers in choosing the best, most cost-effective health-insurance plan for 2022 for them and their families, and to determine if financial assistance is available to help pay for coverage.



Due to continuing COVID-19 safety measures, there will be no walk-ins for Navigator enrollment assistance. Anyone showing up as a walk-in will be required to schedule a future appointment instead.

“Everything will again be appointment-only for this Open Enrollment,” explained Shantell Cheek, Access East Director for Uninsured Programs. “We have to make sure that people stay safe.”

Consumers will have several options when scheduling one-on-one Navigator enrollment help: in person, by phone, or by WebEx or Zoom. **To schedule a Navigator appointment, call (252) 847-3027 or toll-free (877) 755-5438, or visit www.NCNavigator.net.**

Masks will be required both for Navigators and consumers for all in-person enrollment assistance.

Consumers who last year chose a plan *still* need to choose one again during this OE, or risk being automatically enrolled in a new plan that may not adequately meet their needs.

The local ACA Certified Navigators Program (www.accesseast.org/aca-home/) is one of several health-related programs that make up [Access East](http://www.accesseast.org), which primarily coordinates patient-focused, provider-driven health care for the Medicaid and uninsured populations across 27 eastern North Carolina counties.

Navigators are grant-funded, and provide impartial, free assistance, receiving no commissions regardless of which insurance plan a consumer might choose.

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