



PO Box 6028  
2410 Stantonsburg Road | Stanton Square  
Greenville, NC 27835  
(252) 847-6809

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Shavonne Brewington**  
(252) 917-7230 | [Shavonne.Brewington@VidantHealth.com](mailto:Shavonne.Brewington@VidantHealth.com)

## ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS TUESDAY, FOR PURCHASING 2023 COVERAGE

**Greenville, N.C.** – Open Enrollment (OE) to choose an Affordable Care Act (ACA) health-insurance plan for 2023 begins Tuesday, Nov. 1, and the Access East team providing free enrollment assistance has this year expanded its workforce to be able to reach more insurance-seekers more effectively.



The new OE to buy a 2023 ACA plan on the federal Health Insurance Marketplace closes Jan. 15, 2023; however, consumers wanting their coverage to begin on Jan. 1 will need to enroll in a plan by Dec. 15, 2022.

Access East Certified Marketplace Navigators' enrollment assistance will again this year include help in choosing the best, most cost-effective 2023 health-insurance plan for consumers and their families, and to determine if financial assistance is available to help pay for coverage, as it continues to be for most North Carolinians.

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

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](http://www.NCNavigator.net).**

As a continued COVID-19 safety measure, there will again this year be no walk-ins for in-person Access East enrollment assistance; anyone showing up as a walk-in will be required to schedule a future appointment instead. Masks will also be required, both for Navigators and consumers.

This will be the first OE in which the ACA Navigators will be part of the larger Access East Uninsured Programs, providing for a greater number of staff members to help with ACA enrollment.

"Through collaboration and teamwork, we hope to achieve a new level of success in our community this year," noted Access East Uninsured Programs Supervisor Jessica Barbee.

"With us now all in this together," added Shavonne Brewington, Uninsured Programs Manager, "the enthusiasm for enrollment is really up for our group."

Added staff, including several additional native Spanish speakers, means being able to expand outreach into more rural areas this OE, and to connect with more of eastern N.C.'s own Spanish-speaking population, said Shantell Cheek, Access East Director for Uninsured Programs.

### OFFICE HOURS FOR ASSISTANCE

ACA Open Enrollment, now in its tenth year, runs through Jan. 15, 2023. Free Navigator assistance is available weekdays during that time; **appointments are required:**

- ◆ Mondays, Wednesdays: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

There will be **no** office hours Nov. 24-27, in observance of Thanksgiving. Post-holiday Navigator assistance will resume Nov. 28.

### SCHEDULED ENROLLMENT EVENTS

Appointments required; *no* walk-in visits this year.

- ◆ Dec. 10 | Saturday
- ◆ Dec. 11 | Sunday
- ◆ Jan. 7 | Sunday
- ◆ Jan. 8 | Sunday
- ◆ Jan. 14 | Saturday
- ◆ Jan. 15 | Sunday

*All enrollment events are from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Access East offices, 2410 Stantonsburg Drive (Stanton Square Shopping Center), Greenville.*

### BRING WITH YOU TO ENROLLMENT EVENTS:

1. Social Security numbers for every family member, or document numbers for legal immigrants
2. Employer name(s) and phone number(s)
3. Income information for every member of a household who is working, or who has income and needs coverage
4. Information about any health insurance any household member might have

“We’ll deploy our Navigators and Community Health Workers to some of the smaller towns and communities,” Cheek elaborated, “and partner with our ECU Health hospitals in hopes of reaching an even broader group of people in need of affordable health insurance.”

As with previous years, consumers who last year chose a plan will *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](#) is one of several health-related programs that make up [Access East](#), which primarily coordinates patient-focused, provider-driven health care for the Medicaid, uninsured and under-insured populations across 34 eastern N.C. counties.

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