

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Healthcare.gov Enrollment Up in November; Good News for Texas

According to data from Helathcare.gov, enrollment in the federal government's new health insurance exchange picked up sharply in November, but the number of people signing up for coverage still trails original forecasts. However, officials from the Obama administration say they expect the pace of enrollments will continue to increase now that the insurance website is working more smoothly. Users have until Dec. 23 to sign up for coverage that begins in January 2014. This is according to a report released by the US Health & Human Services Department.

As of Nov. 30, more than 137,000 people had obtained health insurance through the federal website, which serves consumers in 36 states. Another 227,000 got coverage through exchanges run by the other 14 states and the District of Columbia. The numbers suggest a fourfold increase in November enrollments on the federal website compared with October, when the site was barely functioning. The pace of enrollment on the state sites roughly doubled.

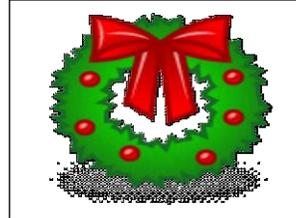
The November enrollment numbers for HealthCare.gov were released Wednesday, December 11, and they're up four-fold from October nationwide. But the administration is still not on track to meet its goal of enrolling 7 million people by March 31 but are confident they can turn it around.

Nationwide, 3.7 million people completed applications for coverage in October or November. Among the 1.2 million who chose plans, 803,077 have been determined to be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP. Of the Texas applicants, 177,472 were eligible to enroll in a Marketplace plan and 16,767 were determined to be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Weatherization Services for residents in the City of Dallas in Dallas county

During this time of the year, with temperatures expected to get into the deep freezing levels, many residents - particularly the elderly and those from low-income families - may find themselves in hazardous living situations as their homes may not be well-insulated or warm enough to stay out of harm's way. A weatherization state grant program sponsored by the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TDHCA) may be able to help you. Organizations funded by TDHCA to administer the Weatherization Assistance Program help low-income households control energy costs through the installation of weatherization materials and other minor home repairs.

Locally in Dallas, the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services may be able to help. To reach them, contact them by phone at (214) 819-1848 or (214) 819-2101 or fax at (214) 819-6022, or by e-mail at zthompson@dallascounty.org, For more information on the program, visit the website at: info@tdhca.state.tx.us



WEST DALLAS MULTIPURPOSE CENTER SPECIAL HOLIDAY UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013 – 9AM-12NOON & 1PM-3PM NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. WALK-INS WELCOME For More Details, Call: (214) 670-6353

In the spirit of Community, the West Dallas Multipurpose Center Social Services Program has TXU Energy Aid funds available to assist families in need. This special holiday assistance will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current TXU Energy customer. (Bill must be in applicant's name).
- Reside within the City of Dallas.
- Have a valid Texas ID.
- Current proof of income.
- TXU Energy bill.