



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 14, 2013

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Mary's Center receives \$720,000 in Local and Federal Grants specifically to Help with the Health Benefit Exchange Open Enrollment

Navigators, In-Person Assisters and Enrollment Assistance Workers will navigate DC and Maryland residents through the new health plan options

Washington, DC – With the recent announcement from the [DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority](#) of [Mary's Center](#) being selected as one of the 35 DC-based groups to receive funding for the upcoming Open Enrollment in health coverage, the Center totaled \$720,000 in local and federal grants to support this endeavor.

“This is great news to Mary's Center,” says Maria Gomez, President and CEO. “For 25 years, we've supported uninsured individuals and families in finding much needed health options, and this funding will help us expand our efforts to ensure access to healthcare and reduce current health disparities.”

In 2012, Mary's Center provided over \$7 million dollars worth of free care to the uninsured who were unable to contribute to their care. If this trend continues, it will be financially unsustainable for the Center in 2014 forcing it to lay off staff and decreasing medical services to the community. Therefore, Mary's Center is committed to get as many people enrolled into a health plan to insure better health outcomes for our region and the longevity of the Center.

As a [Federally Qualified Health Center](#), Mary's Center received over \$170,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to hire three Enrollment Assistance Workers to do outreach and enrollment into Medicaid, CHIP, and other qualified health plans. For the same purpose, the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange awarded the Center with nearly \$250,000 for three Navigators and two Assisters, and the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority granted \$300,000 for four In-Person Assisters.

During the upcoming days, Mary's Center staff who have been hired to navigate DC and Maryland residents through the health care exchanges, will be receiving training and then will begin reaching out to the uninsured community, including those hard-to-reach population groups, to walk them through the hundreds of health plans that will be available under the Affordable Care Act effective January 1, 2014.

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MARY'S CENTER—founded in 1988, is a [Federally Qualified Health Center](#) that provides health care, family literacy and social services to more than 30,000 individuals whose needs too often go unmet by the public and private healthcare systems. Mary's Center uses a holistic, multipronged approach to help each participant access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stable families, and economic independence. The Center offers high-quality, professional care in a safe and trusting environment to residents from the entire DC metropolitan region, including individuals from over 110 countries. For more information, please visit www.maryscenter.org or follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).