

## Robert P. Astorino, Westchester County Executive

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner, Department of Health Ned McCormack, Communications Director Contact: Caren Halbfinger (914) 813-5013 / after hours: 813-5000

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## NAVIGATORS OFFER HELP WITH HEALTH INSURANCE DURING OPEN ENROLLMENT NY State of Health Marketplace Open Enrollment Starts Sunday

The open enrollment period for 2016 for the NY State of Health Marketplace began Sunday. Open enrollment runs through Jan. 31, but for coverage to begin on Jan. 1, residents must enroll or re-enroll in a plan by Dec. 15.

Residents who are currently enrolled in the Marketplace should receive information about renewing their coverage for 2016 directly from the NY State of Health Marketplace.

New this year is the Essential Plan. Designed for lower income people, the Essential Plan provides the same essential benefits as other plans, including free preventive care. Enrollment in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, the Essential Plan and the Small Business Health Option is available all year round.

To help residents and small business owners understand and access the Marketplace, Westchester County Health Department has seven "Navigators" available to help residents.

"We encourage residents to call us for free help choosing and enrolling in a health insurance plan that fits their budget and offers the coverage they need," said Westchester County Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD. "With 26 sites around the county, there is sure to be a convenient place to meet with a Navigator near you."

Navigator sites include libraries, health department offices, community based organizations and government agencies. Weekday, evening and weekend hours are available either by appointment or during set hours. Navigator services are free and available in English and Spanish. To reach a Navigator, call (914) 813-5192 or email <a href="mailto:hnav@westchestergov.com">hnav@westchestergov.com</a>.

To learn more about health coverage, go to <a href="www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov">www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov</a> or call 1-855-355-5777. The NYS of Health Customer Service hours are Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, and Saturday, 9am-1pm.

For more health information, like us on Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/wchealthdept">www.facebook.com/wchealthdept</a>, follow us on Twitter <a href="www.westchestergov.com/health">@wchealthdept</a>, or go to <a href="www.westchestergov.com/health">www.westchestergov.com/health</a>.