



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Tis the Season for Shopping--- Have you purchased your health insurance yet?**

**Eau Claire, WI- December 9, 2014-** This holiday season, don't forget to shop for health plans on [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). Getting covered may be cheaper than you think and you could be eligible for lower premiums and out-of-pocket costs. In 2014, 11% of Eau Claire County residents were uninsured. Since the introduction of the Affordable Care Act, approximately 2% more residents of the county have become insured.

On November 15, 2014 open enrollment for marketplace insurance began nationwide allowing individuals to enroll in quality, affordable health coverage. Individuals must enroll or re-enroll before December 15, 2014 to have coverage begin January 1, 2015. Enrollment will be open until February 15, 2015 to provide a larger window of time encourage individuals to enroll.

In Eau Claire County, a local coalition made up of representatives from local hospitals, insurance agents, navigators, certified application counselors and representatives from governmental agencies have been meeting to collaborate on efforts to keep Eau Claire County informed about the enrollment and re-enrollment process. Community members can visit [www.ehealthcare.org](http://www.ehealthcare.org) to find resources to help with the enrollment and re-enrollment process and local lists of insurance agents, certified application counselors, navigators and enrollment sessions that can assist in the application process.

“We want to help ensure that our residents have access to health services, so they can have optimal physical and mental health and prevent illness, disease, injury, disability, and premature death,” says Lieske Giese, Director/Health Officer of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

Resources for the enrollment process can be found at [www.ehealthcare.org](http://www.ehealthcare.org). Individuals can apply online for marketplace insurance at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) or call 1-800-318-2596; TTY 1-855-889-4325.

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