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## **Vermont Health Connect Enrollment Begins November 1, Ends December 15**

The Office of the Health Care Advocate Urges Vermonters to Act Soon and Reach Out with Questions

Open Enrollment on Vermont Health Connect starts on November 1. The Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) encourages Vermonters to act soon to enroll in a 2018 Vermont Health Connect plan. The Open Enrollment period is shorter this year; it ends on December 15. You will not be able to switch from your current plan or purchase a new plan after December 15 unless you qualify for a special enrollment period or Medicaid.

“If you want to make a change or buy a new plan for 2018 you must act before December 15. Our team of advocates is available to answer your questions and help you understand your options,” said Mike Fisher, Vermont’s Chief Health Care Advocate.

“You should also know that subsidies to help with monthly premiums and out of pocket costs are still available. This has not changed, despite what you may have heard in the news.”

To find the 2018 plan that best meets your needs, visit Vermont Health Connect ([http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/Get\\_Started](http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/Get_Started)) online. Compare plans and estimate your costs using the Vermont Health Connect decision tools ([http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/tax\\_credit\\_calculator](http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/tax_credit_calculator)).

The HCA is available to help no matter what your income or health insurance status. The HCA is a free service for all Vermonters with health care issues. If you have questions about your health care or health insurance, call the HCA’s advocates at [1-800-917-7787](tel:1-800-917-7787) or fill out our online help form ([http://vtlawhelp.org/vtlegal\\_gethelp](http://vtlawhelp.org/vtlegal_gethelp)).

The Office of the Health Care Advocate helps Vermont consumers with a broad range of problems and questions related to health care services and health insurance. The HCA also acts as a voice for consumers in health care policy matters before the Vermont legislature and before government agencies that oversee insurance and health care programs. The Office of the Health Care Advocate is a project of Vermont Legal Aid.

Vermont Legal Aid (VLA) is a non-profit law firm that provides legal advice and services to individuals and families throughout Vermont who are facing a civil legal problem that threatens their rights, shelter, job, health or well-being. VLA began serving clients in 1968.

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