

OBAMACARE works.....

Thanks to Obamacare, Americans are Getting Covered, Saving Money & Scheduling Healthcare Appointments

New York, February 19, 2014 – Planned Parenthood highlights 10 Americans who previously were denied health insurance coverage or who were charged unaffordable prices due to pre-existing conditions. Thanks to Obamacare, these individuals have signed up for affordable health plans and are already taking better care of their health.

Chenoa Elizabeth — Dallas, TX

After Chenoa lost her insurance, she had to use expired hand-me-down inhalers for her asthma. Now she has a Blue Cross Blue Shield silver plan, paying \$86 a month for medical and dental. Her current cost for inhalers? \$0.

“Enrolling in my new health plan was really easy. I was able to compare all the plans. I chose a plan that’s affordable, and I’m excited that I can now get health care.”

Jennifer Fuentes — Tampa, FL

Jennifer’s mother couldn’t afford health insurance for many years, so this is her first time being insured since the age of 11. A recent college graduate with no pre-existing conditions, she signed up for Humana, paying only \$17 a month after her \$163 tax credit.

“I basically pay the same amount of money on my insurance premium that I do for my Netflix subscription.”

Te’ Youngblood — Ravenna, OH

Te’ works as a paralegal for a small law office that can’t afford to provide health insurance, so she had to purchase her own plan at \$272 a month. Now under Obamacare, and with a \$55 tax credit, her monthly cost has been slashed to \$153. Te’ has suffered from Bartholin’s cysts, a painful condition that requires ongoing gynecological care, so she never wants to be without insurance.

“I’m healthy now, but because of my medical history I know firsthand that health coverage is absolutely necessary. If you don’t have it, you can go down a financial rabbit hole really quickly. The new health care law allows me to get the right insurance with good coverage that fits my budget.”

Angela Trigg — Mobile, AL

Angela is an employee at a small independent bookstore that can’t afford to offer health insurance; until now, she couldn’t afford to purchase it on her own. Although she’s healthy with no pre-existing conditions, she is 46 and needs preventive screenings. Under the Affordable Care Act, which provides her with a \$253 tax credit each month, she is now paying only \$37 a month for a silver plan. Her first appointment will be for a wellness checkup.

“I’m getting older, and I need to have regular checkups. Alabama doesn’t have a state exchange, but even still, I was able to afford insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield thanks to the tax credit.” -

Maria Afsharian — Montclair, NJ

Maria works for herself, so she has to pay for her own insurance. Before Obamacare, her bill had been \$600 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. She has no pre-existing conditions, but last year after a routine mammogram, she was sent back for a second mammogram, and BCBS refused to cover the second one. As a result, she had to pay for it herself out-of-pocket; the bill was \$400. Everything turned out fine, but BCBS refused to pay for her follow-up doctor visits as well. Maria stopped seeing the doctor because she was worried about the bills. Her first appointments will be with her gynecologist and for a mammogram.

"When you get older, you need to go to the doctor, but what do you do if your insurance won't cover it? I was being held hostage by my old insurance carrier. I'm so excited about Obamacare. Now I'm on a silver plan with my husband, and we're paying \$375 for both of us with a tax credit. I had a lot of technical problems with the website, but even still, I am very grateful for this law."

Rev. Ron Greene — Great Falls, MT

Pastor Ron and his wife, also a pastor, had been receiving health insurance through their church employers. Their premiums kept going up, making their insurance a financial hardship. Under Obamacare, they are saving a whopping \$7,586 a year in medical insurance costs and \$652 in dental insurance costs. Pastor Ron's employer is saving money too--and as a result, he is getting a salary increase for the first time in four years. He looks forward to seeing his GP for an annual physical.

"Insurance premiums have gotten more expensive for us ministers. I'm grateful to be saving money, I'm glad I don't have to worry about coverage for my pre-existing back condition, and now I don't have to be concerned if a serious medical problem develops."

Lauren Yuhas — Jersey Shore, NJ

Lauren has several health conditions that made insurance under the old laws prohibitively expensive. She has frequent appointments with specialists, and must take multiple medications every day, and she is one of the millions of women who need the birth control pill for pain relief. The Affordable Care Act, in one fell swoop, has changed everything for her. Now she can get the medical care she needs at prices she can afford.

"I'm not looking for a handout. I just want the same chance at the American Dream as anyone else who isn't limited by the genetic lottery. Obamacare gives me a chance, and I do the rest."

Jaclyn Munson — New York, NY

Jaclyn, who has endometriosis, was spending \$700 a month for individual coverage because of her pre-existing condition. She found a comparable plan for just \$376 a month through the New York State marketplace, and she can continue seeing the same specialists. She will save nearly \$4,000 a year.

"This has been a great experience for me... Now I have extra money that I can put back into the economy. No matter what your politics, surely this is a good thing."

Krista Ernst — Austin, TX

Krista is a mother of two who lost her insurance recently when she divorced. The only coverage she could afford was catastrophic insurance. Because she is eligible for a tax credit, her new plan is costing her only \$63 a month.

"I now have a co-pay and a set rate for generic drugs. Real health insurance! The healthcare.gov site also gave me the option to add dental (which I haven't had in years!) for \$11/month. Given that my medical policy was so reasonable, I was able to safely add this as well."

Luz Hernandez — Dallas, TX

Luz's parents came to the U.S. for a better life, but they had to go back to Mexico for affordable health care. Now they can get medical attention here in the U.S., where they are citizens. Their Blue Cross Blue Shield silver plan costs the three of them only \$100 a month.

"This is the first time we ever had insurance. My dad owns a small company, and he does physical labor for his job. One time he injured his shoulder, and he couldn't work. He had to go to Mexico to get surgery, which was nerve-wracking because they don't have the same standards there medically."

Planned Parenthood's integrated campaign educates millions of uninsured Americans about the benefits and availability of new health insurance plans. Online tools are available to help individuals understand how to enroll at www.PlannedParenthoodHealthInsuranceFacts.org and in Spanish at www.PlannedParenthoodAsegurate.org.

On the ground, every Planned Parenthood health center has educational materials about the law and the benefits available for patients, as well as trained staff who provide information about the law. Planned Parenthood's outreach efforts have ramped up dramatically, with hundreds of staff deployed to communities with large populations of newly eligible uninsured Americans.

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Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading provider and advocate of high-quality, affordable health care for women, men, and young people, as well as the nation's largest provider of sex education. With more than 700 health centers across the country, Planned Parenthood organizations serve all patients with care and compassion, with respect and without judgment. Through health centers, programs in schools and communities, and online resources, Planned Parenthood is a trusted source of reliable health information that allows people to make informed health decisions. We do all this because we care passionately about helping people lead healthier lives.