



## **IDPH and Get Covered Illinois Announce Open Application Process for 2016 In-Person Counselor (IPC) Program**

*Following a Highly Successful First Two Years of ACA Enrollment, Illinois is Gearing Up to Again Assist and Educate Health Care Consumers about Coverage Options Through \$5 Million in Grants*

**For Immediate Release:**

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CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Get Covered Illinois today announced that it will be accepting applications from community organization and other qualified entities that wish to participate in the 2016 Get Covered Illinois' In-Person Counselor (IPC) Program, the outreach and education arm for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Illinois.

“We are extremely proud of Get Covered Illinois' work to provide access to quality affordable health care to nearly 1 million Illinois residents within the first two years of the program,” said Illinois Department of Insurance Acting Director Anne Melissa Dowling. “We realize that there is still more work to do and are thrilled with the opportunity to continue the program to help grow enrollment, improve health insurance literacy, and positively impact health outcomes across Illinois.”

Additionally, grantees of the program will continue to receive the highest levels of training and certification but also will provide further training for the development of a Community Health Worker (CHW) Program as envisioned by the Illinois CHW Advisory Board. As part of a broad strategy to expand cooperation with the Community Health Worker/Patient Navigator community, GCI will launch an initiative to support IPC's interested in continuing and building on their work as Assisters in new roles.

“Enrolling residents for health insurance allows people to have what we call ‘medical homes,’ a place where people can receive care from a health care provider for routine check-ups and illness, instead of waiting until a condition is so bad the person needs to visit the emergency department,” said Illinois Department of Public Health Director Nirav D. Shah, M.D., J.D. “Continuing to partner with community organizations that will educate and help individuals sort through coverage options will allow us to reach more people across Illinois and improve the overall health of the state.”

GCI recently completed a highly successful second enrollment period win which federal authorities announced 349,487 Illinois residents enrolled in a plan through the Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace. Coupled with enrollment of approximately 622,673 people to date in Medicaid under the ACA, more than **972,160 Illinois residents** have received coverage as a result of the state's enrollment efforts.

For more information about the state's implementation of the ACA, go to: [www.GetCoveredIllinois.gov](http://www.GetCoveredIllinois.gov).



To receive automatic alerts regarding this funding opportunity, visit [idphgrants.com](http://idphgrants.com) and navigate to the *Grant Opportunity Notification* menu option. Interested applicants should select the *Health Insurance Marketplace* category. Additional information regarding the application process for the Illinois In-Person Counselor (IPC) Grant Program will be available on [idphgrants.com](http://idphgrants.com) at a later date.

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