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Over 640,000 Kentuckians are currently uninsured. Under the new healthcare law, the Affordable Care Act, it is possible many of them would qualify for Medicaid, which is free of charge, or tax credits from the government, which would help them pay their monthly premium - it all depends upon their income level.

Beginning October 1st, all Kentuckians will have the ability to buy health coverage a new way- through Kynect, Kentucky's Healthcare Connection. Kynect will offer choices of health plans at a good value, and though the specific health insurance options are not available until next month there is other information on the site that may be of interest. The web address is <http://kynect.ky.gov>.

Kynect can help individuals and small businesses find quality coverage. It can help even if a person was denied coverage before or could not afford it. It's easy to apply, and coverage can begin as early as January 1, 2014. Kynect will show plans and prices. It also checks for low-cost or free coverage through Medicaid and KCHIP, the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program. Kynect health plans offer peace of mind. All plans will cover essential health benefits like doctor visits, trips to the hospital or emergency room, medicine and care for pregnant women and children. Many people will qualify for help with insurance payments through tax credits that reduce their monthly payment. The new federal law also requires most people over age 18 to have public or private health insurance or face fines beginning in 2014. Open enrollment ends on March 31, 2014.

For members of our community without internet access, who already have specific questions about the health insurance options or who want help using Kynect, you are welcome to call 606-633-4823 and ask to speak with Zach Sturgill or Malinda Sexton or the Kynect Contact Center at 1-855-4KYNECT (1-855-459-6328). The percentage of uninsured in Letcher, Perry, Harlan, and Owsley counties are all 18% or above according to the 2012 County Health Rankings published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin. Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation will have outreach and enrollment specialists available in your local area at various events. You may even see them at your local grocery store. If you have questions, please make sure to stop by and see us or give us a call. We are here to help.

“Quality health care for the people of Eastern Kentucky”

Zachary Sturgill
Coordinator of Outreach & Enrollment Assistance/Kynector
Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation
PO Box 40
226 Medical Plaza Lane
Whitesburg, KY 41858
zsturgill@mtncomp.org
Work (606)-633-4823
Cell (606)-634-8823

Malinda Sexton
Kynector/Outreach & Enrollment Specialist
Leatherwood/Blackey Clinic
464 KY Highway 699
Cornettsville, KY 41731
msexton@mtncomp.org
Work (606)-476-2599
Cell (606)-634-8613