

Open Enrollment for South Carolinians Kicked Off November 1 With More Savings Than Ever Before

Last year, President Biden and Democrats in Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which is driving down health care costs for families and seniors across the United States. In this open enrollment, 4 in 5 consumers will be able to enroll in coverage for [less than \\$10 per month](#).

BY THE NUMBERS:

382,968 South Carolinians enrolled in health insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace in [2023](#), **66 percent** more than in [2021](#).

South Carolinians are saving an average of [\\$565.76](#) on monthly health insurance premiums.

In 2023, [357,301 South Carolinians](#) enrolled in Marketplace plans are receiving lower out-of-pocket premiums, **147,403 more South Carolinians** than in [2021](#).

DETAILS:

President Biden and Democrats in Congress have been laser-focused on making health care more affordable for Americans. The Inflation Reduction Act lowers health care costs and expands eligibility for savings for millions of Americans. In 2021, the American Rescue Plan lowered health care premium costs for people who buy their own coverage, capping out-of-pocket premium costs at 8.5 percent or less of a family's income. The Inflation Reduction Act extends this policy through 2025, keeping a lifeline available for families who can now count on affordable care. A record [15.6 million Americans](#) enrolled in Marketplace coverage for 2023, with 9 in 10 consumers receiving lower out-of-pocket premiums. President Biden also boosted funding for Navigators who help people choose a plan and enroll, and finalized a fix to the "family glitch," which allows even more families to access affordable coverage.

Capping The Amount Of Money Families Pay For Health Insurance. The Inflation Reduction Act ensures families pay no more than [8.5 percent](#) of their income towards coverage. This [helps](#) middle income and working families as well as older Americans who have traditionally faced excessive premiums or live in high-premium areas. Before this policy went into effect, middle income families spent an average of [15 percent](#) of their incomes on health insurance. The new law is designed to benefit those who need it most.

Addressing Health Care Equity By Expanding Coverage For Communities Of Color. The Inflation Reduction Act's cap on out-of-pocket premiums for plans purchased through the Marketplace, as well as substantial funding increases for Marketplace education and outreach, have boosted the number of people of color who are now covered by health insurance.

Communities of color are finding health plans [more affordable than ever](#) with 53 percent more Latinos, 49 percent more Black Americans, 32 percent more American Indian and Alaska Natives enrolling in Marketplace coverage. The Biden administration has [invested \\$98.6 million](#) in 57 experienced Navigator organizations for the 2024 Open Enrollment Period to provide enrollment assistance to consumers, with a focus on underserved communities.

Addressing Health Care Equity By Lowering Costs For Communities of Color. The Center on Budget Policy and Priorities estimates the increased savings continued under the Inflation Reduction Act will cause a sharp decline in the uninsured rate across every racial group, with [one in three](#) uninsured Black adults expected to gain coverage. The premium savings continued in the Inflation Reduction Act have made more than [65 percent](#) of uninsured Black adults eligible for zero-dollar premium plans and [75 percent](#) eligible for plans less than \$50 a month. For uninsured Hispanic and Latino adults, now more than [68 percent](#) are eligible for zero-dollar premium plans and nearly [80 percent](#) can access plans for less than \$50 a month. Health coverage is imperative to reducing racial disparities across the nation.

Eliminating Premiums For Low-Wage Workers. The Inflation Reduction Act ensures no American with an income at or below [150 percent](#) of the federal poverty level (\$21,870 or an individual and \$45,000 for a family of four) buying their coverage on the Marketplace pays a premium.

Cutting Costs For Rural America. Thanks to the provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, roughly [65 percent](#) of rural Americans have access to zero-dollar premium health coverage and more than [76 percent](#) are able to find a plan for less than \$50 a month, narrowing the coverage differences between rural and urban America.