

August 26, 2013

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NOTICE NO. 13-06
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: GRACE A. KILBANE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Outreach Strategies to Promote Health-Care Coverage for All
Job Corps Participants

1. Purpose. To inform the Job Corps community of the Department of Labor's (DOL) efforts to expand awareness of health-insurance coverage opportunities, and Job Corps' responsibility to initiate activities that educate prospective, current and transitioning students about these opportunities.

2. Background. March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which includes two pieces of legislation: the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act.

The ACA expands Medicaid coverage to millions of low-income Americans, and makes numerous improvements to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. In March 2012, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare finalized two rules defining the eligibility and enrollment policies needed to achieve seamless coverage for individuals who will be eligible for Medicaid beginning in 2014, as well as eligibility and enrollment for the new Affordable Insurance Exchanges. These rules establish the framework for states' implementation of the eligibility expansion going forward.

In June 2013, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched a new Web site, www.healthcare.gov. This site serves as a portal to online training, videos, posters, fact sheets and other training resources aimed at educating individuals and employers about the issues that need to be factored in when choosing a health insurance plan that is affordable and suitable for them. The new Health Insurance Marketplace, which opens October 1, 2013, has been structured to facilitate the decision making process.

Information about the various health insurance plans will be available to individuals and small businesses beginning September 1, 2013. They will be able to review all the plans for a specific geographic area through www.healthcare.gov.

Information is also available at via the toll-free hotline, 800-318-2596/TTY 855-889-4325. Translation is available for 150 languages. Open enrollment begins October 1, 2013, and everyone will be able to enroll directly through the Marketplace Web site or the toll-free hotline. Open enrollment concludes at the end of March 2014.

In 2014, key components of the ACA will take effect, most notably, the opening of the Health Insurance Marketplaces. Health Insurance Marketplaces will be in strategic locations and will provide “one-stop” type services for individuals and small businesses, so they may compare health plans, answer questions regarding eligibility, tax credits, and get general help with enrollment.

3. Action. In early September, information toolkits will be provided to each center courtesy of the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These toolkits include posters, brochures, fact sheets and other educational resources. Upon receipt, toolkits should be distributed to strategic program components, Job Corps personnel, prospective students, and current/transitioning students. Additional materials can be obtained at no cost, through productordering.cms.hhs.gov/ and marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/publications-and-articles.html.

These resources are also available in other languages. All staff members should participate in a Webinar on the ACA and the Health Insurance Marketplace. Training is available at www.healthcare.gov. Registration is required. This training is also available on the Department of Labor Learning Link. All staff members should familiarize themselves with the basic concepts by the second week of September and develop some group training/assemblies, or other related activities to ensure everyone in the Job Corps family is well informed and knowledgeable about this opportunity.

Suggested activities are also included in the forthcoming toolkits. Large segments on the healthcare.gov site focus on those 26 years old and younger who have been impacted by the high unemployment rates, low-paying jobs, and their limited funds to purchase minimal health care coverage.

August 19, 2013. HHS and the Young Invincibles announced the Healthy Young America Video contest. Interested people can submit a video and tell their story to other young people about what the ACA and the Market place means to them. Contest, voting, and prize information can be found at www.healthyyoungamerica.org.

It is of the utmost importance for Job Corps students to be provided with this information at key junctures of their Job Corps paths. Even as they prepare to leave, Job Corps can be assured the students will have the necessary education, hard skills, and life skills that lend to

success. The information concerning the ACA and the Health Insurance Marketplace will be marketed through our media outlets.

All activities and participants should be well documented. The information concerning the ACA and the Health Insurance Marketplace will be high visibility in our media outlets.

Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

4. Expiration. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or via e-mail at abnathy.carol@dol.gov, or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or via e-mail at davis.johnetta@dol.gov.