

# Nebraska Medicaid Program and the Affordable Care Act



# Introduction to the Affordable Care Act

- \* The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a federal law that Congress passed in 2010.
- \* The ACA requires most U.S. citizens and legal residents to have health care coverage by January 1, 2014. Individuals who are not covered may have to pay a penalty.
- \* Consumers will have several options for obtaining health care coverage, including applying for benefits with the Nebraska Medicaid program.



# Nebraska Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act



- \* Nebraska Medicaid currently provides health care services for certain low income persons who meet specific eligibility requirements.
- \* Groups covered by Nebraska Medicaid include pregnant women, children and their families, and individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled.
- \* Effective January 1, 2014 Nebraska Medicaid will cover certain young adults who were formerly in foster care and who meet specific eligibility requirements.



# What if I Already Receive Benefits through Nebraska Medicaid?



- \* **State Medicaid benefits qualify as acceptable health care coverage in satisfaction of ACA requirements.**

- \* **Individuals who have already been determined eligible for Nebraska Medicaid benefits do not need to reapply.**



- \* **Current Nebraska Medicaid clients must continue to comply with the requirements of the program and report changes that could affect their eligibility.**

# Changes to Nebraska Medicaid Eligibility Rules

- \* Beginning January 1, 2014, there will be new income rules for determining Medicaid eligibility for children and their families, as well as for pregnant women.



- \* Eligibility rules for Medicaid applicants who are aged, blind, or disabled will not change.

# Changes to the Medicaid Application

- \* A new application will be available for Nebraska Medicaid October 1, 2013.
- \* Current online and paper applications may still be submitted through December 2013.
- \* Beginning January 1, 2014, only the new application will be accepted.
- \* The new application will allow individuals to apply for Medicaid with the State of Nebraska and for Qualified Health Plans with the federal Marketplace at the same time.
- \* However, people who would like to apply for Nebraska Medicaid do not need to wait until October 1 to do so.



# How to Apply for Nebraska Medicaid

***Applications are available to submit online or by mail.***

- \* Online applications can be submitted by going to [ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov](https://ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov) to fill out an online application

- \* Paper applications are available online to submit by mail are available to download at [ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov](https://ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov)

**OR**

- \* Request to receive a paper application by mail  
Call 1-800-383-4278 (402-323-3900 in Lincoln) .



# Health Care Coverage Options under the Affordable Care Act

*Open enrollment begins  
October 1, 2013.*

- \* Consumers will be able to obtain health coverage through the Marketplace, through private insurance companies outside the Marketplace, through an existing employer's health care plan, or, if they qualify, through their state's Medicaid program.



- \* Learn more about their health care coverage options at the federal Health Insurance Marketplace.