



PO Box 6028  
 2410 Stantonsburg Road | Stanton Square  
 Greenville, NC 27835  
 (252) 847-6809

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Frank Rabey  
 (252) 531-7254 | [Frank.Rabey@AccessEast.org](mailto:Frank.Rabey@AccessEast.org)

## LESS THAN A WEEK LEFT TO ENROLL IN ACA INSURANCE FOR 2021 COVERAGE

*Last days of Open Enrollment 2020 feature two final enrollment events before Dec. 15 closing*

**Greenville, N.C.** – The deadline for people still needing to enroll in an Affordable Care Act (ACA) health-insurance policy on the Health Insurance Marketplace, or to renew an existing ACA policy, is just days away. Open Enrollment closes at midnight Tuesday, Dec. 15.

In the few remaining days of Open Enrollment 2020, the Access East Certified Marketplace Navigators program is holding two final free enrollment events (*gray box, below right*) to assist consumers in choosing the best, most cost-effective health-insurance plan for 2021 for them and their families, and to determine if financial assistance is available to help pay for coverage.

In North Carolina, nine out of 10 people receive help paying for their ACA plans.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges this year for enrollment assistance, to keep consumers and Navigators safe, providing that assistance has never been more important, noted Shantell Cheek, Manager of Access East Uninsured Programs.

“With the pandemic, now more than ever, none of us can afford to take our health care for granted,” Cheek explained. “Health insurance can no longer be an afterthought.

“COVID spreads so easily, and can be so dangerous,” she continued. “It has the potential to instantly change the equation for any of us, rapidly taking us from healthy to very, very sick. The last thing we need is then to find ourselves financially ruined by the cost of our care if we have to be hospitalized long-term because of it.

“Our most medically and financially challenged population, in particular, cannot afford to be *without* coverage in the midst of all this.”

Walk-ins are welcome for the final two free ACA enrollment events, though appointments are strongly encouraged. One-on-one meetings with an Access East Navigator are also still available, either remotely or curbside, by appointment only.

**To schedule a Navigator appointment, call (252) 847-3027 or toll-free (877) 755-5438, or visit [www.NCNavigator.net](http://www.NCNavigator.net).**

Navigators are grant-funded, and provide impartial free assistance, receiving no commissions regardless of which insurance plan a consumer might choose.



### FREE LOCAL ACA ENROLLMENT EVENTS

Appointments strongly encouraged; walk-ins, however, are also welcome for these two events:



- ◆ Dec. 12 | Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: *Greenville, Access East, 2410 Stantonsburg Road, in Stanton Square Shopping Center*
- ◆ Dec. 13 | Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: *Greenville, Access East, 2410 Stantonsburg Road, in Stanton Square Shopping Center*

Face masks are required for all interactions with Navigators.

### BRING WITH YOU TO ENROLLMENT EVENTS:

1. Social Security numbers for every family member, or document numbers for legal immigrants
2. Employer name(s) and phone number(s)
3. Income information for every member of a household who is working, or who has income and needs coverage
4. Information about any health insurance any household member might have

### OFFICE HOURS FOR ASSISTANCE

Navigator assistance is still available; walk-ins welcome, but appointments are best to guarantee Navigator availability:

- ◆ Monday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday and Friday: 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.