

TUESDAY, MAY 28

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ACCESS EAST TO HOST A MEDICAID-EXPANSION ENROLLMENT EVENT TOMORROW, ON THE HEELS OF LAST WEEK'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ENROLLMENT EVENT

Greenville – Access East's HealthAssist Uninsured Network will host a free Medicaid Expansion enrollment event from 1-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 29, at JOY Community Center, 700 Albemarle Ave., in the heart of west Greenville.

Being held in the Dr. Irons HealthAssist Clinic at JOY, the event offers people newly eligible for NC Medicaid health coverage to get free expert assistance enrolling in the program. Financial counselors with the ECU Health Central Billing Office will be on hand to assist with enrollments.

Appointments are available to guarantee being seen, though walk-ins are welcome. Call **(252) 847-3027** to schedule an appointment.

The JOY event comes just a week after Access East's highly successful Medicaid Expansion enrollment efforts at the Carver Branch Library, where 17 people came in for enrollment help, with 10 ultimately signing up for Medicaid and one for Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage. Several others were identified with Medicaid enrollment issues to be resolved at this week's JOY event.

"The success of last week's enrollment efforts makes clear just how important this kind of outreach is within our community, to identify and help those people who are newly eligible for Medicaid," noted Shantell Cheek, Director of the HealthAssist Uninsured Network, which also includes the ACA Navigators program.

"Affordable health coverage, whether Medicaid or the ACA, allows people previously unable to afford basic health care to be able to finally fully address their own health needs, without constant fear of financial ruin if they have to pursue long-term care or treatments."

Medicaid Expansion, which passed in N.C. on Dec. 1, 2023, raised the original income limit to qualify for the state-run health-insurance program, allowing many more people the potential to enroll. Nearly 450,000 additional North Carolinians have already been able to sign up since program expansion, with roughly 1,000 people now joining daily.

As of the first week in May, there were still an estimated 200,000 more North Carolinians, ages 19-64, potentially eligible to enroll.

"Medicaid Expansion is allowing so many more underserved people to finally have basic health coverage," Cheek noted. "It's a win-win, for them, and for all of North Carolina."

The Dr. Irons HealthAssist Clinic at JOY, known also as the Pitt County Care Clinic at JOY, includes several exam rooms outfitted with a variety of medical equipment and supplies toward addressing local community-health needs. The clinic is named in honor of Dr. Thomas G. Irons, Access East Chief Medical Officer, whose lifelong work toward improving community health in Eastern North Carolina is possibly without equal.



Gerri Ashe, HealthAssist Diabetes and Health Education Specialist, at the Dr. Irons HealthAssist Clinic at JOY, site of tomorrow's Medicaid Expansion enrollment event.

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