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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 15 Deadline For Georgia Access Health Insurance Enrollment Fast Approaches

ATLANTA – Today, Georgians for a Healthy Future (GHF) is urging Georgians who purchase insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to take action before the fast-approaching December 15th deadline to enroll in health insurance through Georgia's new health insurance marketplace, Georgia Access. It is estimated that more than 1.3 million Georgians are currently enrolled in coverage through healthcare.gov, but in 2025, Georgians will enroll and maintain their coverage through georgiaaccess.gov.

Those who enroll by December 15th will have coverage beginning New Year's Day. Those who miss the December deadline will face a delay, with coverage starting in February, instead of January 1st.

"The clock is ticking for Georgians to secure their health coverage for the new year," said Laura Colbert, Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future. "The December 15th deadline is more than just a date. It's an opportunity to protect your health and financial security for the new year. Missing it means risking a month without coverage and leaving yourself unprotected against unexpected medical expenses. Take action today to ensure you start the year with peace of mind and the care you need."

What Consumers Need to Know

Critical Deadlines:

- December 15, 2024: Enroll by this date for coverage starting January 1, 2025.
- January 15, 2025: Final open enrollment deadline for coverage beginning February 1, 2025.

Financial Assistance:

 The plans are affordable. Most enrollees qualify for subsidies for their insurance premiums. In 2024, over 1.2 million Georgians received financial help, reducing average premiums from about \$583 to just \$75 per month.

Customized Local Support

 Georgia Access is designed specifically for Georgia residents.
Organizations like GHF provide free, unbiased support through trained navigators to make enrollment stress-free.

GHF's Navigator Program: A Partnership to Serve Georgians

In partnership with the state, GHF operates a navigator program to ensure Georgians have the support they need to enroll through Georgia Access. GHF's navigators provide:

- Help finding a plan that fits your needs and budget
- Assistance understanding and applying for financial aid
- Guidance to avoid common enrollment pitfalls

Consumers can request assistance today by visiting GHF's <u>Get Help with</u> <u>Health Insurance</u> page or directly contacting:

- Deanna Williams: dwilliams@healthyfuturega.org | (470) 654-5509
- Melita Lewis: mlewis@healthyfuturega.org | (470) 835-7546

"Georgians for a Healthy Future is proud to partner with the state of Georgia to ensure residents have access to the help they need during this critical enrollment period," said **Laura Colbert**. "GHF's navigators are here to make sure that every Georgian understands their options, secures the financial assistance they qualify for, and avoids common mistakes that could leave them without coverage."

To better understand Georgia Access and how it differs from the federal marketplace, read our blog post: What to expect as Georgians begin to shop and enroll in their 2025 coverage.

Visit www.GeorgiaAccess.gov or call the Georgia Access support line at 1-888-687-1503 today to explore plans, apply for subsidies, and enroll. For personalized assistance, contact GHF's navigators at no cost.

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Georgians for a Healthy Future collaborates with communities and partners to lead policy change that advances health equity for all Georgians. Our vision is of a day in which all Georgians have equitable opportunities to achieve their highest level of health. We do this by delivering actionable health policy information to policymakers and advocates; providing resources to help

consumers become strong advocates, and elevating the consumer experience to inform policy change. Read more at healthyfuturerega.org

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