

How Can Reform Congregations Help Promote Affordable Healthcare?

On November 15, the Federal Marketplace open enrollment period re-opened. The Affordable Care Act has already played a crucial role in helping millions of Americans obtain high-quality health insurance coverage in the past year. The **open enrollment period ends on February 15.** It is essential to enroll as many Americans as possible before then.

Many congregations have already been involved in this effort. *What can your congregation do?*

- 1) **Learn and teach** about the Affordable Care Act!
 - **Learn** about the Jewish obligation to provide healthcare coverage at rac.org/health.
 - **Learn more** about the consumer protections, key health benefits, financial assistance and other aspects of the law from the Department of Health and Human Services [Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships](http://www.hhs.gov) or from [healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).
 - Congregations can **host** community education forums, study sessions exploring the connections between Jewish texts and health care, or invite staff members for U.S. Representatives, Senators, the state insurance commissioner to speak, or public officials from your [U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services region](http://www.hhs.gov).
- 2) **Partner** with agencies working to enroll Americans in health insurance!
 - **Connect with partner organizations** that have experience with enrolling the uninsured in your community. [Enroll America](http://www.enrollamerica.org) is a **national organization with partners on the ground in most states**; they will be able to connect your congregation's social action committee to experienced groups doing this important work for new service projects or to add to existing ones.
- 3) **Spread the word:** Encourage your neighbors to enroll and benefit!
 - Use **social media** and your synagogue's **website** to [disseminate information](#).
 - Highlight information about [how to enroll](#) in **newsletters and bulletins**.
 - Deliver a healthcare-themed **sermon** or publish a healthcare-themed **op-ed**.
 - **Direct** congregants and others to [relevant resources](#), like community health centers.
- 4) **Promote healthcare for all** by advocating for Medicaid expansion!
 - The Affordable Care Act included an **expansion of the Medicaid program** to cover millions more low-income Americans, but [23 states](#) have opted not to do so as of December, 2014.
 - If your state has not expanded Medicaid, **encourage congregants to contact** your governor and state legislature to expand Medicaid! You can direct them to the RAC's [action alert](#), host a lobby or call-in day, or encourage individual action.

For more information, go to rac.org/health or contact the Eisendrath Legislative Assistant for Health Care at rac@rac.org or (202) 387-2800.

