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Department of Vermont Health Access

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Vermont Health Connect Introduces New Ways to Receive Health Coverage Information
Online tax credit calculator and social media help Vermonters find personal, real-time information

WINOOSKI, VT – Vermont Health Connect announces the launch of an online subsidy calculator, now available at VermontHealthConnect.gov. The calculator allows Vermonters to determine if they will qualify for financial help to pay for part of their monthly health care premiums starting in 2014. Vermont Health Connect has also launched a presence on social media, including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, offering Vermonters access to the latest updates and announcements.

“Vermonters are eager to learn more about the financial help that may be available to them when purchasing health insurance for 2014,” said Mark Larson, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access. “The online calculator provides Vermonters with the resources they need to estimate their 2014 health insurance costs today.”

Individuals, families and small business owners in Vermont will use Vermont Health Connect to find a health plan that fits their needs and budget. The Vermont Health Connect social media channels provide information on what Vermonters want to know, schedules of upcoming forums happening across the state, tools to simplify the enrollment process, video presentations and other helpful resources.

Vermonters who purchase a health plan through Vermont Health Connect may qualify for a subsidy, in the form of a tax credit, which will help pay a portion of monthly premiums starting in 2014. They can choose to apply the subsidy to their monthly premiums or receive it all at once when they file federal income taxes. Financial help will also be available for some lower-income individuals and families to help pay for out-of-pocket health care costs. If an employer offers health coverage, their employees will not be eligible for this subsidy.

Vermont Health Connect is a marketplace, opening October 1, that will allow individuals, families and small businesses to compare private health plans side-by-side and find financial help to pay for care. Vermont Health Connect is also for individuals and families in Vermont to find out about and enroll in public health coverage. For Vermonters who have questions or need assistance enrolling, expert help will be available online, by phone, and in-person.

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