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\$11.9 Million Awarded to Thrive Allen County To Continue Health Care Navigator Program

Thrive Allen County health care Navigators will be able to continue helping underserved communities, consumers, and small businesses find and enroll in quality, affordable health coverage thanks to federal funds. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is awarding this new round of grants, in advance of this year's Marketplace Open Enrollment (which begins November 1, 2024), to 44 Navigator grantees across the nation. The grants are part of a commitment of up to \$500 million over five years — the longest grant period and financial commitment to date, and a critical boost for recruiting trusted local organizations to better connect with those who often face barriers to obtaining health care coverage.

Kansas CARES, a program of Thrive Allen County that works with partners across the state, utilizes Navigators who offer free assistance to people exploring health coverage options through HealthCare.gov, from reviewing available plans to assisting with eligibility and enrollment forms, and post-enrollment services such as using their coverage to get care. Navigators can also assist people in helping enroll in or renew Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage. Navigators are vetted and trained to provide support for the millions who have enrolled in Affordable Care Act coverage under the Biden-Harris Administration.

Navigators are federally trained and certified individuals who help consumers find and apply for Marketplace health insurance. According to CMS, "Since 2013, Navigators have helped Americans understand their health insurance options and facilitated enrollment in health insurance through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace. As trusted community partners, their mission focuses on assisting the uninsured and other underserved communities. Navigators serve an important role in connecting communities that historically have experienced lower access to health coverage and greater disparities in health outcomes to health coverage."

Visit KansasCARES.org for more information or to find a Navigator near you!

To learn more about this year's Navigator grantees, visit [In-Person Assistance in the Health Insurance Marketplaces | CMS](#). Consumers in any state, including those that run State-based Marketplaces, can access Navigators by visiting Find Local Help for assistance with their application and more. For additional details on Marketplace Open Enrollment, which will run from November 1, 2024, to at least January 15, 2025 (and longer in some states), visit [HealthCare.gov](#).

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Thrive Allen County is a non-profit organization that exists to strengthen Kansas' rural communities through advocacy, programs, community outreach and communication. Kansas CARES is a program of Thrive Kansas, which is currently under the umbrella of Thrive Allen County. For more information, visit thriveallencounty.org.