



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

Columbia Valley Community Health

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## **Open Enrollment for State Health Insurance Exchange**

*Columbia Valley Community Health offers assistance for area residents enrolling into the Exchange*

*Tuesday, November 11, 2014: Wenatchee, WA: Open Enrollment for the [Washington Health Benefit Exchange](#) begins this Saturday, November 15, 2014. [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) will be providing in-person assistance to residents of Chelan and Douglas counties throughout this open enrollment period, which will end February 15, 2015. During week days, this free service will be limited to patients of Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH), however, CVCH will hold free Saturday enrollment events in December, January and February that will be open to the public.*

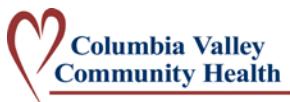
Beginning Monday, November 17, in-person assistance will be available during regular clinic hours at the CVCH Wenatchee clinic, located at 600 Orondo Ave, and the CVCH Chelan clinic, located at 317 E. Johnson. These In-Person Assisters, known as IPA's or navigators, will provide help with new enrollment applications, renewals, and processing insurance premium payments into the [Washington Healthplanfinder](#). IPA's are CVCH employees who have been trained to guide individuals through the enrollment process.

**Marlen Mendez**, Clinic Manager, is helping to facilitate open enrollment. She says even though this is the second open enrollment period for the state exchange, there is still confusion for applicants navigating the system.

"The stakes are higher this year with larger tax penalties for those who are eligible but choose not to enroll," Mendez says. "Insurance is about peace of mind, knowing that you are covered in emergencies and have access to routine preventative care visits to stay healthy. Columbia Valley Community Health and its staff members are here to provide guidance in the enrollment process – something that aligns with our mission of providing access to healthcare services with compassion and respect for all."

For more information about the health benefit exchange, contact [Marlen Mendez](#) at **509.661.3623**. For more information about CVCH and its programs, please contact [Andy Stewart](#), Director of Planning and Development at CVCH, at 509.664.3530.

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*CVCH Press Release: CVCH Offers Assistance during Open Enrollment*

**About Columbia Valley Community Health**

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves over 24,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.