

# The Public Affairs Pulse

## Keeping You on Top of Legislative & Advocacy Issues

### One Month Left to Enroll in ACA; Medicaid Expands

March 2014 is the last month to enroll in the first open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Plans must be selected and premiums must be paid by March 31, 2014, to avoid incurring tax penalties next year.

From October 2013 to January 2014, more than 3 million Americans successfully enrolled through [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) and purchased new insurance plans. In Michigan, Planned Parenthood has been hard at work doing outreach and enrollment in communities round the state. Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan (PPAM) has delivered 51 ACA education presentations to more than 1,900 people, and helped 77 people enroll in new insurance plans!

Throughout the month of March, PPAM will continue to provide office hours in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and Detroit as well as host webinars and ACA Basics presentations. For enrollment assistance or to register for an event please call 1.844.7.ENROLL or email [8447ENROLL@ppmchoice.org](mailto:8447ENROLL@ppmchoice.org).

As we approach the end of the open enrollment period for the ACA, the Michigan Department of Community Health is preparing to launch the expanded Medicaid program known as Healthy Michigan. The Healthy Michigan Plan will be available to

Michiganders who make below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (approximately \$16,900 for a single person). This will include childless adults for the first time.

The Healthy Michigan Plan application is now available at [www.healthcare4mi.com](http://www.healthcare4mi.com) and MDCH will begin processing applications on March 15, 2014. Also on March 14, the ACA application and the Healthy Michigan Application will become seamless, with Healthy Michigan eligibility built directly into the ACA online application at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). Coverage for the Healthy Michigan Plan will begin after April 1, 2014. No specific start date has yet been set by MDCH.

### 40 Days for Life Begins

The first of two 40 Days for Life campaigns begins on March 5 and runs until April 13. During this time Right to Life will be directing anti-choice activists to protest outside of abortion clinics round the clock. This activity ranges from quietly praying to end abortion to yelling and harassing clinic workers and patients entering the clinic.

March 10 is National Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, an opportunity to show some love to the amazing people who put up with this harassment (and often much worse) in order to continue to provide safe and legal abortion services to women.

### Celebrating Condom Week

Valentine's Day, February 14, kicked off National Condom Week this year. It is an opportunity for health care providers and safe sex advocates to promote the use of condoms in their communities.

Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan's teen advocates distributed condoms to students on the Grand Rapids Community College Campus on February 13.



Later that night, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan's JET (Justice Engagement Team) adult advocate group did a condom blitz to seven bars in the Grand Rapids area. Wearing fun Valentine's Day costumes, they distributed more than 500 PP-themed valentines with condoms attached to bar patrons.

### Upcoming Events:

**ACA Event** — Fountain St Church in Grand Rapids, March 20, 6–9pm

**Volunteer Night** — PPWNM Health Center in GR, March 25, 5–7pm

If you are interested in any of these issues or opportunities, please email [dani.vilella@ppmchoice.org](mailto:dani.vilella@ppmchoice.org)