



United Way of Anchorage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## United Way of Anchorage Expands Free Assistance for Health Insurance Enrollment

*Ten navigators to help Alaskans find Affordable Care Act plans; enrollment begins today*

**Anchorage AK** – United Way of Anchorage now has a team of ten healthcare navigators to help Alaskans decide on the best coverage for themselves and their families through the Affordable Care Act, which opens for enrollment today, November 1.

The service is free and accessible through Alaska 2-1-1, United Way’s statewide helpline.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides the funding for this expansion. United Way has provided free navigator help since the Affordable Care Act took effect in 2013.

During this year’s enrollment period, which starts November 1 for coverage beginning in 2022, United Way will have additional navigators ready to help in Anchorage, and for the first time in Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Kenai for more statewide reach. Alaskans can call 2-1-1 to get connected to their nearest navigator with service offered in-person, online and by phone – and in almost any language.

“With health insurance more affordable and easier to access than it has ever been and with enhanced premium tax credits, thanks to the American Rescue Plan, this expanded assistance will let us reach and connect more Alaskans to affordable health insurance that works for them and their families, said Jane Straight, Director of Income/Health Impact, United Way of Anchorage. “Insurance protects your health and your financial security.”

Healthcare navigators do not recommend any particular coverage plans to clients. They learn about an applicant’s needs and circumstances and then lay out options for them, answering any questions about how health insurance works and helping with applications as needed. They can also help Alaskans complete Medicaid applications.

This free service is often the most direct line to health insurance for low-income Alaskans – particularly those with English as a second language. Premium costs for many plans are going down for coverage in 2022, and tax credits cut costs even further. Some policies can run as low as \$10 a month.

**The Affordable Care Act open enrollment period runs from November 1 to January 15, 2022.**

**Call 2-1-1 or text GetCoveredAK to 898-211 or call 800-478-2221**

**[United Way Healthcare Navigators are here to help.](#)**

Anchorage navigators will be available to provide in-person assistance throughout the enrollment period starting with a session from 2 – 5 p.m. at the Loussac Library tomorrow, Nov 2. See full schedule below:

**Z.J. Loussac Public Library: Raven Room**

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-5 p.m. from November 2 – January 13

and

Saturdays from 11a.m. – 3 p.m. on November 6 and 20, December 4 and 18, and January 15

**Mountain View Library Branch: Community Room**

Saturdays from Noon – 4pm on November 13, December 11, and January 8

**About United Way of Anchorage**

United Way of Anchorage is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners working together to improve the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. LIVE UNITED.

[www.liveunitedanc.org](http://www.liveunitedanc.org)