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## Health Insurance Notes



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Tough economic times. High unemployment. Everyone has concern about affordable health care. Here, there are a number of postings to help you understand how to obtain cost effective health care and insurance. Additionally, most people don't know what public programs exist. Through this Blog, I hope to also make it easier for people in need to access all of their local and statewide options Look beyond the current article on the Blog to make best use of the material.

### The Foundation for Health Coverage Education

This press release came from California's Insurance Commissioner. Unfortunately, what he had to say about California is true across our country. The press release contains information of value to all since the Foundation for Health Coverage Education is nationwide.

"With 1 in 10 Californians grappling with unemployment and Sacramento's unemployment rate at 10.4 percent, Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner today highlighted the Foundation for Health Coverage Education (FHCE) Coverageforall.org Web site, a resource for those who may have lost their health insurance due to the tough economic times.

"The event held at the State Capitol is the second in a series of events Commissioner Poizner is holding to inform the public of their health care options during the recession.

"In the first month of the year, nearly 80,000 Californians lost their jobs and with that, their health insurance," said Commissioner Poizner. "The census bureau estimates that nearly 1 out of 5 Californians lacked health insurance at one time or another during the last 12 months. There are resources out there, both public and private, that can help people who don't have health insurance and want to know what their options are. One of those resources is Foundation for Health Coverage Education's coverageforall.org, where people can go to find out what's available for them given their particular situation."

"FHCE operates a U.S. Uninsured Help Line at 800-234-1317 as a resource in addition to the Web site. The Web site and hotline are designed to provide access to hundreds of state and federal programs. The nonprofit organization currently provides access to 175 public healthcare program applications online, allowing Americans seeking government-sponsored health coverage to apply for the programs that best meet their needs.

"A lot of people don't know these programs exist. What we are doing is making it easier for people in need to access all of their local and statewide options," said Phil Lebherz, founder of the nonprofit organization.

"FHCE is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization with a mission to help simplify public and private health insurance eligibility information. In addition to its U.S. Uninsured Help Line (800) 234-1317 and website [www.coverageforall.org](http://www.coverageforall.org), FHCE offers free consumer guides such as the Health Care Options Matrix available for all 50 states."