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Free help with health insurance enrollment available at open house Saturday

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho – Many Idahoans have saved 70% or more on their health insurance premiums with tax credits offered through Your Health Idaho. Find out what savings you and your family may receive at a free open house Saturday in Coeur d'Alene.

Local agents and brokers will be available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST at the Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn, 506 W Appleway Ave., to help people choose the right health insurance plan from one of the 198 plans offered by nine private carriers through the state-run exchange.

Certified experts will offer one-on-one assistance with enrollment applications and answer questions about tax credits that can substantially reduce premium costs for the many who qualify.

All you need to do is bring identification, including Social Security number; employer and income information for 2015; and information about your current policy or job-related health insurance available to you or your family members.

"Open enrollment has started and this open house is a great way for people to learn about the health insurance options available to them and to talk with the experts in the community," said Pat Kelly, Your Health Idaho executive director.

The three-month open enrollment period began on Nov. 15 and lasts through Feb. 15. For those who sign up by the February 15 deadline, coverage will start by March 1.

Last year, approximately 76,000 Idahoans signed up for private health insurance through the state-based exchange.

In addition to attending the community open house, Idahoans who need assistance can find a local agent or broker in their community to help them free of charge by visiting www.YourHealthIdaho.org and clicking on "find help near you."

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Your Health Idaho was established by State law in 2013 to provide an online marketplace where Idaho families and small businesses can go to compare and purchase health insurance. Your Health Idaho is governed by a 19-member Board authorized by the Idaho Legislature to set the rules and regulations for implementing a State-based health insurance exchange.

For more information please visit <u>www.yourhealthidaho.org.</u> You can also check us out on <u>Facebook</u> or on <u>Twitter</u>.