



*Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Department of Medical Assistance Services**

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**Virginia Medicaid Volunteers Partner with CARITAS on Health Care Enrollment**

*~ New Eligibility Rules Open Coverage to More Virginia Adults ~*

**RICHMOND** – A group of volunteers from the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) will assist clients at The Healing Place with applications for Medicaid health coverage from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The Healing Place, a program of CARITAS, is located at 700 Dinwiddie Avenue in Richmond.

Wednesday is the final date in a four-day enrollment initiative by DMAS and CARITAS. So far, volunteers have assisted more than 135 men and women who needed help with Medicaid applications and other health care documentation. Many of the CARITAS clients at The Healing Place and its satellite shelter programs for adult men and women are eligible under the new Medicaid expansion rules.

CARITAS provides services in the greater Richmond area to men and women seeking to break the cycles of addiction and homelessness. Its four programs include The Shelter, The Furniture Bank, The Healing Place and CARITAS Works. Together, they provide men and women with the tools to make a successful transition to dignity and self-sufficiency. You can learn about all four on the organization's website at [www.caritasva.org](http://www.caritasva.org).

DMAS staff members Sarah Samick and Matthew Harrison helped organize the enrollment events and recruited coworkers to participate. The volunteers use laptop computers and portable scanners to help CARITAS clients fill out online applications and submit required documentation.

Newly eligible adults will begin receiving services starting January 1, 2019. The new coverage is available to men and women ages 19 through 64 who are not eligible for Medicare and who meet income requirements, which vary by family size. For example, a single adult with an annual income at or below \$16,754 may be eligible for coverage. An adult in a three-person family with a total household annual income at or below \$28,677 may be eligible.

More information about the new health coverage and eligibility rules is available at [www.coverva.org](http://www.coverva.org). The website includes an eligibility screening tool to help individuals assess whether they may qualify for coverage. Visitors to the website can sign up to receive regular information through email and text about the new coverage and enrollment process. Information is also available by calling 1-855-242-8282. Individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired can call 1-888-221-1590.

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