



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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In-Person Assistance Available for Enrollment into State Health Insurance Exchange *Columbia Valley Community Health will assist all area residents enrolling into the Exchange*

Tuesday, September 24, 2013: Wenatchee, WA: Beginning October 1, 2013, [Columbia Valley Community Health](http://www.cvch.org) will provide in-person assistance to residents of Chelan and Douglas counties looking to enroll in health insurance coverage through the [Washington Health Benefit Exchange](http://www.wa.gov/health). This service is free and open to everyone in the community, not just patients of Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH). In-person assistance will be available at the Wenatchee clinic, located at 600 Orondo Ave, and the Chelan clinic, located at 317 E. Johnson.

There will be public computer stations (kiosks) at the Wenatchee and Chelan clinics that will access the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, known as [Washington Healthplanfinder](http://www.wa.gov/health). These kiosks will be available during clinic hours and will be staffed by CVCH employees who have been trained to guide individuals through the enrollment process.

Marlen Mendez, Outreach Manager, is heading the enrollment efforts at CVCH. She says there is so much information that navigating the system can become overwhelming and confusing very quickly. She invites anyone with questions to take advantage of this free community service.

“The changes in the way health insurance can be purchased is exciting but also very unfamiliar and scary to many of our patients and community members,” says Mendez. “Columbia Valley Community Health and its staff members are here to provide guidance in the enrollment process – something that aligns with our mission of providing access to healthcare services with compassion and respect for all.”

Community members needing enrollment assistance can go directly into the kiosk areas and do not need to make an appointment. Current CVCH patients can schedule enrollment appointments by calling CVCH Patient Services at 509.662.6000.

For more information about the health benefit exchange, contact [Marlen Mendez](mailto:marlen.mendez@cvch.org) at 509.661.3623. For more information about CVCH and its programs, please contact [Andy Stewart](mailto:andy.stewart@cvch.org), Director of Planning and Development at CVCH, at 509.664.3530.

About Washington Healthplanfinder

Washington Healthplanfinder will be a new online marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses in Washington to compare and enroll in health insurance coverage and gain access to tax credits, reduced cost



CVCH Press Release: CVCH Assisting Community in Health Plan Enrollment

sharing and public programs such as Medicaid. Washington Healthplanfinder will begin enrolling consumers on October 1, 2013, for health insurance coverage beginning on January 1, 2014.

About the Washington Health Benefit Exchange

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange is a public-private partnership established in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) with the goal to redefine people's experience with health care through the creation of a new health insurance marketplace for individuals and small businesses.

About Columbia Valley Community Health

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves over 24,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

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