Dear Community Partner,

When people have access to health care, they are more likely to get timely preventive care services and can better manage their chronic health conditions, which can lead to overall improved health. Although the number of people without insurance has significantly decreased since the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010, inequities still exist among people with lower incomes; fewer educational opportunities; Black, Latino, immigrant and priority communities; families with members who have mixed immigration statuses; and people who are medically vulnerable.

Since 2000, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) has helped connect New Yorkers without insurance to health insurance options and enroll them into coverage. We have more than 30 certified application counselors (CACs) who have been trained by the New York State of Health Marketplace to provide one-on-one enrollment services to help New Yorkers sign up for quality health insurance coverage that is affordable.

With the declaration of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in 2020, there was a significant rise in health insurance enrollees due to expansions in eligibility for affordable coverage and automatic coverage renewals. During this time, Medicaid, Child Health Plus (CHP) and Essential Plan (EP) enrollees were not required to go through the annual renewal process to keep their coverage. However, from April 2023 to May 2024, more than five million NYC residents must renew their health insurance through these programs. The NYC Health Department is committed to minimizing the number of New Yorkers at risk of losing their Medicaid, CHP or EP coverage throughout this process and would like to partner with you to achieve this goal.

As a community partner, you play a key role in linking your community members to health insurance and ensuring they remain covered. The NYC Health Department encourages you to reach out to your community members who will benefit from our services. This toolkit contains resources to help you and your community members understand and use our free enrollment services. Together, we can expand health insurance coverage and improve access to health care for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene