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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**DC Health Link Enrollment up Nearly 50% at First Deadline for 2017 Coverage**

*60% of new enrollees are 34 years old and younger*

**Washington, DC**­­ **–** Today, the DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority (HBX) released preliminary individual marketplace data for the fourth open enrollment period for [DCHealthLink.com](http://dchealthlink.com/), the District’s online health insurance marketplace for individuals, families and small businesses.

These preliminary data show that through December 19, 2016:

* **4,123** new customers have completed their insurance applications and selected a health plan;
* New enrollments are up **47%** over the same time last year (4,123 compared to 2,800);
* **2,486** of new customers are 34 years old and younger;
* Customers 34 years old and younger represent **60%** of new enrollments compared to 48% of existing customers.

Since October 1, 2013 when DC Health Link opened for business, approximately **290,000** people have come through DC Health Link:  nearly **40,000** people enrolled in private health insurance through the individual marketplace; more than **176,000** people have been determined eligible for Medicaid; and more than **72,000** have had coverage through the DC Health Link Small Business Marketplace (SHOP), which includes people covered through small businesses in the District and Members and staff from the U.S. Congress.

**Background**

Open Enrollment for individuals and families ends January 31, 2017. There are 20 private health insurance options (including 2 catastrophic plans) that fit all budgets from CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield and Kaiser Permanente for individuals and families. To help customers shop, a decision support tool Plan Match is available. Free expert help is available from DC Health Link brokers and navigators. Premium reductions are available depending on income. Eligible District residents can enroll in a health insurance plan online at [DCHealthLink.com](http://www.dchealthlink.com) or by calling (855) 532-LINK [5465]. Residents can apply for Medicaid throughout the year. For 2017, small businesses have 151 health plan options from Aetna, CareFirst, Kaiser and United. Small businesses can sign up throughout the year.

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