Local Uninsured Start Enrollment Process For Health Care

DAYTON -- Tuesday, new exchanges for health care opened for business and health agencies in the Miami Valley went to the streets to answer any questions some may have.

Several health organizations like the Dr. Charles Drew Community Health Center of Greater Dayton, Community Action Agency, Wright State Community Health Agency gathered together to share information about local resources and educational events relative to the marketplace at the Drew Community Health Center.

"It's based on income, it's based on need, it's based on what they have happening in their household and certainly what they can afford," said Kimberly Conner with Wright State Community Health.

Crystal Evelyn attended Tuesday's event. She's been waiting for the day she could finally get health insurance. It's been difficult for her, in and out of work, she never got the insurance she needed.

"Three years now, I haven't had insurance," Evelyn explained. "If I do really need to go see a doctor, I'll just go to the Reibold building."

To start the enrollment process, click https://www.healthcare.gov/. You must have your Social Security number, pay stubs or W-2 forms and policy numbers for any current health insurance.

The marketplace is for workers at companies who do not offer health insurance, people who have lost insurance, those with pre-existing conditions who may have lost coverage in the past, or those who have not been able to afford it.

"Having people show up in emergency rooms to get their health care, when they've not got their preventative care all along is a problem so now we can work on the preventative services up front, and it's affordable," said Gregory Hopkins, Executive Director of Community Health Centers of Greater Dayton.

If you are having problems enrolling, specialists are available to help you get through the site. You just have to specify that you need the help at the beginning of your enrollment.

Crystal Evelyn is extremely excited to start the process.

"It feels good, it feels good, so I don't have to wait any longer, I can jump on something now." Evelyn said.

Open enrollment runs through March 31. Once you enroll, you can start getting coverage as early as January 2014.