



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

January 14, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Elisabeth R. Benjamin, Community Service Society, (917) 364-3332

**NEW DATA FROM NY STATE OF HEALTH SHOWS STRONG PROGRESS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AFFORDABILITY AND CONSUMER SUPPORT**

(New York, NY) [Health Care For All New York](#) (HCFANY), a coalition of more than 160 consumer advocacy organizations, applauds the NY State of Health Marketplace for strong progress enrolling New Yorkers in health coverage, as detailed in its December enrollment [report](#). Members of our Children, Youth and Families Task Force are particularly pleased with the enrollment numbers for low-income children and their families. We urge the State to continue providing enrollment data on a monthly basis, and to include enrollment numbers by race and ethnicity in future reports.

The NY State of Health is widely recognized as one of the most successful Health Insurance Marketplaces in the country. New York ranks third in the nation for enrollment in Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), with 156,902 individuals enrolled between October 1 and December 28, 2013. By December 24, 230,624 individuals had enrolled in private and public insurance that began on January 1.

We are particularly delighted to see strong enrollment numbers for children, youth and young adults. Thirty percent of individuals enrolled in QHPs are under 35. The strong representation of young adults bodes well for the vitality of the NY State of Health Marketplace.

Most children under 18 enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus (CHP), which offers subsidized coverage for children in households with incomes up to 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). One in three of the 16,750 children enrolled in CHP come from families making between 150 and 200 percent FPL. Families at this income level have little or no disposable income to pay for insurance. HCFANY supports the creation of a Basic Health Program (BHP) in New York, as authorized by the Affordable Care Act. A BHP would offer more affordable coverage for parents of these children. Research has demonstrated that children whose parents have insurance are more likely to get the health care they need.

We also recommend that New York increase and secure ongoing financial support for consumer assistance programs and in-person assistors. One in four individuals



requesting financial assistance enrolled with the help of an in-person assistor – Navigator, Certified Application Counselor or Broker. Navigators report having very high client volume and extensive wait lists. More consumers can get the help they need if the State increases its support for this vital program.

###