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WKU Foundation receives payment to fund the Graves Gilbert Clinic Endowment Fund for Excellence in Healthcare

SUBMITTED Oct 28, 2017



WKU Foundation receives payment

A Graves Gilbert Clinic Endowment Fund for Excellence in Healthcare has recently been established through a partnership with Western Kentucky University and the WKU College of Health and Human Services (CHHS). The fund was established through a \$100,000 payment made by the Graves Gilbert Clinic to the WKU Foundation and will be used to support the priority initiatives of Western Kentucky University's College of Health and Human Services.

“We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Graves Gilbert Clinic in the establishment of this endowment fund,” said Dean of the WKU CHHS Dr. Neale Chumbler. “The CHHS will certainly utilize this fund in an excellent way. As a college with a mission to improve the quality of life in the community through education, service, collaboration, leadership and scholarship, we are excited to have the continued support, and now this endowment fund to support our commitment to our mission.”

Open enrollment begins Nov. 1

Open Enrollment for 2018 Marketplace health insurance plans at healthcare.gov is quickly approaching. The Health Benefit Exchange (HBE), within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) is working to ensure Kentuckians are prepared, informed and have the

resources they need to choose a 2018 health plan.

This year's open enrollment, which runs from Nov. 1 until Dec. 15, is what's known as a passive enrollment period. Kentuckians who already have a health plan purchased on the exchange do not have to do anything for their coverage to continue in 2018. Policyholders will have the same plan for 2018 or their coverage will move from their current plan to an available 2018 option that most closely matches their current coverage.

CHFS is using a multifaceted campaign to reach current policyholders and potential new enrollees. These targeted efforts include direct mail, text messages, phone calls and emails to ensure the current 76,000 marketplace users are aware of their 2018 coverage options.

CHFS and HBE are working to make current and potential exchange customers aware of the tax credits and premium subsidies that are still available on the federal marketplace exchange, for those who qualify. Current plan holders, and those who want to view 2018 options on the exchange, can now go to healthcare.gov and use the shopping tool. For new users, the federal marketplace requires the creation of a user account and a completed online application.

About 80 percent of Kentuckians enrolled in the exchange qualify for tax credits or subsidies that reduce their monthly health insurance premiums. For most of those who qualify, the credits will off-set premium increases so the cost of insurance in 2018 will be about the same. Insurance cost scenarios, calculated by HBE, are in the document attached as part of this release.

HBE is coordinating with community assisters who service every county in the Commonwealth. To find an event in your area or to locate an assistor near you, simply log on to: healthbenefitexchange.ky.gov.

The state-based call center is available at 855-459-6328 to assist Kentuckians with questions about where to go for coverage.

The HealthCare.gov customer service center is also available. It can be reached by calling 800-318-2596.

The [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) call center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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