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Website Glitch Causes Problems for ACA Procrastinators

(KUTV) The deadline to sign up for the Affordable Care Act passed at 10pm, Monday night in Utah. At this point, those that haven't at least started the enrollment process for health insurance may face a fine when they file their taxes next year.

Experts reported the final day before the enrollment deadline didn't go as

smoothly as it could have, for health insurance procrastinators. The healthcare.gov website was working sporadically throughout the day, Monday.



At the Utah Health Policy Project, an office that provides free assistance, the hustle of the day had ended by 6pm, as the office was completely empty. "We were able to help quite a few people considering the website was not working as well as it could have been," said Mary Hualde, who admits she's helped hundreds of families sign-up for insurance over the past couple weeks.

Healthcare.gov navigators were instructing people to start a profile on the website, and come back another day when the website was working better, to finish enrolling. The simple process of entering an email address and creating a profile was enough to buy more time to choose a plan.

Although, experts advise choosing a plan and beginning coverage is not something to postpone much longer. "You should do that soon, you should do that in early April, if you do that before April 15th, your plan will start on May 1st," said Jason Stevenson, Communications Director with the UHPP.

Stevenson says there are some exceptions for enrolling in an Affordable Care Act plan: including, if you have coverage under a workplace health plan; if you're already being covered by Medicaid or Medicare; if you fall below the federal poverty level.

Stevenson says the taxpayers that could face fines are those that can afford health insurance, but decide they don't want it.

By: Chris Miller



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