

# HHS officials in Utah to talk ACA and Medicaid expansion

ABC4

November 19, 2014

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Link: <http://www.good4utah.com/story/d/story/hhs-officials-in-utah-to-talk-aca-and-medicaid-exp/42480/WP2X-aS3LEG2DLNn7UnFew>

Video: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/play/5460085>

SALT LAKE CITY (ABC 4 Utah) – With open enrollment for the [Affordable](#) Care Act underway, representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are making the rounds.

Regional representatives serve as the eyes and ears for HHS Secretary, Sylvia Burwell in [Washington](#) DC.



They are on Utah's Capitol Hill to get a [better](#) feel for open enrollment and the Medicaid expansion debate in our state.

"Nationally, we know that more than 100,000 folks enrolled, new enrollees on the first day of kickoff," said HHS Region 8 Director, Kim Gillan.

She's in Utah to get a first hand look at the efforts to [educate](#) and get people signed up under the ACA.



"Utah has a tremendous [infrastructure](#) and organization for enrollment," said Gillan.

Last year more than 84,000 Utahns signed up for a plan on [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov).

Advocacy groups predict that could bump up to 125,000 this year and they say the majority will get

subsidies to help pay the premiums.

"People are getting great deals buying [insurance](#) for \$60, \$70, \$120 a month for their family and getting good deductibles as well," said Jason Stevenson with Utah Health Policy Project.

For an estimated 57,000 Utahns there is no option for care, because of the coverage gap created by the ACA.

Utah is one of four state's in region 8 that haven't expanded Medicaid.

That's why meeting with lawmakers is also on Gillans agenda.

"We hope that the opportunity for Medicaid expansion will be thoroughly examined by all states during their next legislative session," said Gillan.

The [tour](#) of the Wasatch Front will continue Thursday with stops in Ogden, Heber City and Provo. They will be meeting with registration specialists, local politicians and civic groups.

HHS also recommends using a broker or navigator.

They can help you get through the system at no additional cost.

For additional resources call 211 or visit [takecareutah.org](http://takecareutah.org).

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