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*The collective voice of Long Island's  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NY State of Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment, Season Four Begins 11/1**

*NSHC Navigator Agency enroller staff available to assist applicants*

(Hauppauge, NY . . . October 26, 2016) The New York State of Health marketplace opens for business on November 1, 2016. This is the fourth season of open enrollment.

No commercial health plans exited the exchange in the Long Island region and, depending upon the level plan selected, the average premium increases are about 17 percent in this region, well below the national average. Increases in premiums are often offset by tax credits for those whose incomes qualify them for such assistance. Monthly premiums for the Essential Plan, an option for very low income adults, remain \$20 a month or at no cost, depending upon an individual's income.

Enrollment ends January 31, 2017. Enrollment in the small business marketplace, Child Health Plus, Medicaid, and the Essential Plan are available year long. Individuals and small businesses can shop the marketplace through an online portal [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov), by calling the state's customer service number at 855-355-5777, or by meeting with a state-certified navigator.

On Long Island, the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) is one of three state-appointed navigator agencies for the region. State-trained and certified navigators are available to assist individuals, businesses, and families in understanding insurance options offered and in purchasing insurance. Navigators, the majority of whom are bilingual, will assist individuals in completing the application for coverage, and will determine whether the applicant's income level and family size qualify them for subsidized insurance premiums, Medicaid coverage, the Essential Plan, or Child Health Plus enrollment. Navigators can also help small business owners determine if they are eligible for any tax credits.

The NSHC navigator agency maintains a user-friendly, bilingual website that lists enrollment sites and dates and other helpful information at [www.coverage4healthcare.org](http://www.coverage4healthcare.org).

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