



**DECISION TO LIMIT THE ENROLLMENT OF NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS FOR 2016
PLAN YEAR ANNOUNCED**

For Immediate Release

December 9, 2015

Contact:

Michael Gendreau | 207-402-3330

Lewiston, ME – After consultation and input from the Maine Bureau of Insurance and the New Hampshire Insurance Department, Community Health Options has announced that it will suspend offering new individual coverage for the 2016 plan year. December 26, 2015 will be the last day to purchase an individual Community Health Options plan through the online Marketplace and December 15, 2015 will be the last day to purchase an individual plan directly from Community Health Options for the 2016 plan year. This decision is a consequence of significant enrollment growth over the last two years and higher than expected claims costs in 2015.

This decision does not limit or affect Community Health Options’ group business. Community Health Options continues to support the enrollment of new and returning group business in 2016 with renewals and new enrollment anticipated throughout the year.

As noted by the Maine Bureau of Insurance, “Community Health Options continues to meet all of its obligations in the normal course of business.”

“Our commitment to delivering exceptional service on behalf of our Members is not affected by this decision,” said Board chair Jim Davis. “Members, both new and renewing, can rest assured that their 2016 coverage remains in full force and effect. We look forward to the eventual resumption of additional individual enrollment.”

--###--

About Community Health Options – Community Health Options (Health Options) is a non-profit, Member-led health plan providing comprehensive, Member-focused health insurance benefits for individuals, families, and businesses. Health Options is a Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) licensed in Maine and New Hampshire that is dedicated to providing affordable, high-quality health benefits through productive partnerships with Members, businesses, and a broad network of providers. For more information about Health Options, visit the website: HealthOptions.org.