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**Baltimore
HealthCare
Access, Inc.**

Press Release

City Residents Can Now Call 311 for Referrals for Health Insurance

Options include Maryland Children's Health Program, Primary Adult Care Program, and Newly Expanded Bridge Health Insurance Program with Kaiser Permanente

Baltimore, Maryland (November 22, 2007): Today, as Americans prepare to count their blessings, Baltimore Healthcare Access, Inc. is announcing a new initiative to protect the health and well-being of city residents. Through this initiative, city residents can call 311 for screening and referral to a range of health insurance programs and low-cost healthcare options.

The programs include the Maryland Children's Health Program, which is an income based comprehensive health care insurance plan for pregnant women and children, and the Primary Adult Care program, which provides basic access to primary care for city residents with incomes under 116% of the poverty line. As a result of legislation just passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley, health insurance options will expand over time to reach more city residents with more comprehensive benefits.

Baltimore Healthcare Access, Inc. is also pleased to announce an expansion of the Bridge Program in Baltimore City. Beginning today, an additional 100 slots will be available to Baltimore's uninsured, bringing the Baltimore total to 200 slots. The Bridge Program is a comprehensive health insurance plan providing full coverage including outpatient primary and specialty care, lab and radiology services, inpatient care, and prescription drug coverage. Bridge enrollees pay a modest monthly premium of \$19.35 to \$38.70 for coverage. The remainder is subsidized by Kaiser Permanente. Baltimore HealthCare Access, Inc. is now the Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States partner processing all Baltimore City applications.

Designed as a short-term solution, Bridge is a two year program for low income workers. Individuals must not be eligible for any public health insurance programs, and must be currently employed. Annual household income limits are listed below:

Family Size	Annual Household Income	
1	\$25,525	
2	\$34,225	<i>Add \$8,700 for each additional household member</i>
3	\$42,925	

“Baltimore Healthcare Access is thrilled to be the new Kaiser Permanente partner for Bridge in the city. We want to get the word out that these slots are available,” said Kathleen Westcoat, President of Baltimore Healthcare Access, Inc. “No one in the United States should have to choose between food or heat and their health, and no one should face bankruptcy due to a catastrophic illness or accident.”

Baltimore Healthcare Access serves as a gateway to the Maryland Children’s Health Program and the Primary Adult Care Program. Last fiscal year, Baltimore Healthcare Access enrolled over 35,000 pregnant women and children into the Maryland Children’s Health Program. The agency has enrolled over 2100 individuals into the Primary Adult Care program since July 2007. If Baltimore Healthcare Access receives more applications for the Bridge Program than there are available spots, the agency will use a procedure to randomly select eligible applicants. Those not selected will return to the waiting list pool.

“Mayor Dixon and I are pleased that the city is partnering so closely with Baltimore Healthcare Access to make available health insurance options and low-cost care just a phone call away for city residents,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. Dr. Sharfstein is also chair of the board of Baltimore Healthcare Access, Inc.

Baltimore city residents are encouraged to call 311 or Baltimore Healthcare Access directly at 410-649-0500.

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Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States is a total health organization serving 500,000 patients in Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. Kaiser Permanente is composed of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic States, Inc. and the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, P.C., an independent medical group that features over 900 physicians who provide or arrange care for patients throughout the area. Visit kp.org for more information.