

March 25, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Experts Help Decipher Health Care Reform

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department has invited policy experts from the Missouri Foundation for Health to give a presentation about the federal Affordable Care Act at **11 a.m., Tuesday, March 26** at the Springfield Art Museum auditorium, 1111 E. Brookside St. (A previous release listed an incorrect time.) The session is open to the public.

As the federal health law turns three, many Americans know less about the law now than when it was passed in 2010. A March 2013 monthly tracking poll conducted by the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) found that two-thirds of the uninsured and a majority of Americans overall say they have too little information to know how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will affect them, and that awareness of key elements of the law has declined somewhat since passage when media attention was at its height. The survey also found that the public is not tuned into decisions states are making today about whether to expand their Medicaid program under the law and how to establish the insurance exchange marketplaces, according to KFF.

Many Missourians have already seen changes in the health care system through implementation of the ACA. But, with a steady release of certain ACA components, it can be hard for some to stay abreast. The Missouri Foundation for Health is working to help Missourians better understand health care reform. The Foundation's policy experts are dispelling myths and breaking down the ACA into what Missouri needs to know.

The informational session next week will include an "up-to-date" presentation about employer responsibilities, costs, and highlights what an individual needs to know to navigate the evolving health care system. There will also be a focus on how the ACA affects the public health sector.

"Community educational sessions, such as the one for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, help Missourians understand health care in a way that they can use both be it in their everyday lives or trip to the doctor's office," said MFH health policy analyst Thomas McAuliffe.

The hour-long session is a part of the Cover Missouri initiative to incorporate community input, Foundation research, and economic analysis by state and national experts. The event is free to attend, with no RSVP necessary.

"This session is an occasion for our community to better understand the health care system and how it may impact us as an individual, a family, or even a business," said Mary Ellison, WIC Coordinator at the Springfield-Greene Health Department.

For more information on this informational session, contact: Mike Brothers, Public Health Information Administrator, (417) 874-1205.

For more state-specific information on health care or to learn more about Missouri Foundation for Health and Cover Missouri, please visit www.mffh.org and www.covermissouri.org.

About Missouri Foundataion for Health

Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) is a private nonprofit organization working to improve the health of Missourians. The Foundation provides grant funding and education, fosters community partnerships, and serves as the leading nonpartisan voice on health system topics of importance to Missouri. MFH is the largest health care foundation in the state and has provided more than \$470 million in grants and contracts since its founding in 2000.