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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SIGN UP FOR CHILD HEALTH PLUS OR FAMILY HEALTH PLUS IN JUST 20 MINUTES
New “E-Z enroll” system cuts application time in half**

In less time that it takes to do a load of laundry or watch your favorite sitcom, you may now be able to apply for health insurance.

It used to take a typical family 45 minutes to fill out the enrollment forms for public health insurance programs. Now, thanks to a new electronic filing system, the time has been slashed to 20 minutes. And the system will speed up processing as well.

“Anything we can do to make these forms easier to fill out is welcome,” said Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Commissioner of Health for Westchester County. “This system will be a benefit to residents applying for public health insurance, as well as to the staff who assist applicants in enrolling in these programs.”

Specifically, it applies to those who enroll in New York State’s Medicaid Managed Care, Child Health Plus, and Family Health Plus. It is estimated that approximately 2,000 families or individuals will benefit from using this system annually. Any uninsured Westchester County resident is eligible to apply for these health insurance programs.

Facilitated Enrollment staff meet with applicants at various sites throughout the county on weekdays, evenings and weekends. The Facilitated Enrollment schedule is available on the Health Department’s website, www.westchestergov.com, or by calling the Westchester County Department of Health’s Health Insurance Access Information Line at (914) 813-5656.

The “e-z enroll” system is made possible through a partnership of the Health Department and the Hudson Center for Health Equity and Quality (Hcheq), a not-for-profit health care advocacy program. The health department and its partners are licensed to use Hcheq’s Facilitated Enrollment Electronic Application

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(FEEA) system. Applications are entered directly into a computer database, avoiding the need to fill out multiple forms with redundant information.

The FEEA system creates an enrollment application in a form accepted by the state. It also retains the documents electronically so they may be easily accessed a year later when the application needs to be renewed. The application can be sent electronically to New York State and to the Westchester County Department of Social Services, which will be phase two of the project.

“The application completely revolutionizes the Access NY Health Care enrollment process by automating a paper-based system that is time-consuming, error-prone, and costly,” said Georganne Chapin, Founder and President of Hudson Center for Health Equity & Quality.

According to Hudson Health Plan, a Tarrytown-based not-for-profit health plan that has used the FEEA application, the organization has reduced its enrollment processing time by 40 percent, due to a reduction in errors and problems with illegible writing.

The Westchester County Health Department is the county’s lead facilitated enrollment agency and works in partnership with the Child Care Council of Westchester and the Westchester Hispanic Coalition. A grant from the Westchester Community Foundation will fund the training of facilitated enrollment personnel in the use of the FEEA system.

For more information about health insurance programs, contact the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000, or visit www.westchestergov.com/health.