

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION November 5, 2020 MEDIA CONTACT: Quin La Capra <u>qlacapra@211sandiego.org</u>

## 2-1-1 San Diego Receives State Funding for Covered California Enrollment

San Diego–<u>2-1-1 San Diego</u> was awarded \$50,000 from the State of California to support <u>Covered</u> <u>California</u> outreach and enrollment efforts. The grant will support 2-1-1's Certified Enrollment Specialists (CEC) as they help individuals and families in the San Diego region renew their plan or enroll during Open Enrollment, which began on November 1<sup>st</sup>. It will also be used for outreach, marketing, and education efforts about Covered California health care plans and the application process.

"Health insurance is more important than ever as our country faces the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have lost their jobs—and therefore their employer-provided health insurance—or had changes in their income," said **William York, President & CEO of 2-1-1 San Diego**. "We're proud to work with Covered California to make sure everyone has the opportunity to find the right plan for their needs and budget."

For the last 6 years, 2-1-1 San Diego has partnered with Covered California to help reduce the number of uninsured people, improve quality of health care, and reduce health care disparities. Individuals and families can make an appointment to speak with a CEC at 2-1-1 San Diego, who can explain the different cost and coverage options, relay if they are eligible for financial assistance, and submit the application on the caller's behalf. 2-1-1 San Diego will also follow up two weeks after the appointment to explain how new enrollees can make their first payment or find a primary care doctor.

This year, an <u>estimated 5.4 million people</u> lost their health insurance between February and May as a result of job losses due to COVID-19. As of September 22, <u>289,000 people had signed up for coverage</u> during Covered California's COVID-19 special enrollment period.

To learn more or to receive help finding and applying for a Covered CA plan, visit <u>211sandiego.org/coveredca</u> or call 2-1-1.

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## About 2-1-1 San Diego:

2-1-1 San Diego serves as a lifeline connecting San Diegans to more than 6,000 community, health, and disaster support services, 24-hours a day in more than 200 languages, through a simple three-digit number, searchable online database, and online chat. 2-1-1's Community Information Exchange (CIE) technology improves the lives and health outcomes of San Diegans through improved care coordination that unites information across our community providers, making access to services seamless. For more information about 2-1-1 San Diego, visit www.211sandiego.org or follow us on Facebook by searching 2-1-1 San Diego or on Twitter @211SD.