FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**St. Louise Resource Services Extends Business Hours in Preparation for Covered California’s Open Enrollment Period**

* St. Louise extends its usual business hours on evenings and weekends to help uninsured people enroll into health insurance plans during Covered California’s Open Enrollment Period.
* Covered California’s Open Enrollment Period runs from November 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023. Outside of this period, people who want to apply for insurance must be experiencing a “big life change” in accordance to Covered California guidelines.
* Thanks to the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act, there is more financial help through Covered California to make coverage more affordable at a time when many individuals and families are facing increased economic challenges.

**Nov. 1, 2022, Downey, Calif.** — St. Louise Resource Services (StLRS) is extending their business hours throughout the Covered California’s Open Enrollment Period. This is part of StLRS’ many efforts to help reduce health disparities by becoming more accessible to families across marginalized communities and areas where healthcare systems may be challenging to access due to socio-economic, cultural, or linguistic barriers.

The mission of St. Louise Resource Services is to empower people to access health care benefits and social services they may need, such as Covered California, Medi-Cal, and CalFresh. By extending their hours and availability, StLRS is committing to help those in need gain access to necessary healthcare benefits.

Typically, throughout the year, individuals and families who need to enroll into health insurance must be experiencing a “big life change” or event in accordance to Covered California guidelines. This is known as the Special Enrollment Period. Those who do not qualify under these guidelines must wait until Open Enrollment Period, which typically runs from November to January. During this period, all eligible Californians can apply to enroll into health insurance.

StLRS is dedicated to helping as many people as possible to enroll into health insurance so they can access quality preventative healthcare. That is why they have decided to extend their usual business hours from October until January. During StLRS’ extended hours, Certified Enrollment Counselors will be available through appointments to provide application assistance and guidance. On selected dates, there will also be open events to the community for on-the-spot Shop and Compare enrollment. Additionally, StLRS will be hosting live sessions across their social media platforms to promote Covered California Open Enrollment and the benefits of enrolling into health insurance.

“Extended hours during Open Enrollment alleviate consumers,” explains Family Service Coordinator Carmen Maria Ayala. She explains these extended hours are necessary, “to accommodate our Covered California consumers, and anyone who works during the day. No matter how young or healthy you are, no one is immune to accidents. Obtaining health coverage allows you to do the activities you love without the stress of unexpected accidents, injuries, or high medical costs.” Ayala has served hundreds of clients over a 3-year span while at StLRS and passionately believes in its mission, “we provide the extended wrap-around assistance, [including to] educate and advocate for our consumers.”

For the past 6 years, StLRS has served thousands of individuals and families in the community through free services aimed at increasing the awareness of healthcare benefits and social programs, as well as application assistance, case management, and advocacy. By partnering with Covered California, StLRS helps individuals and families obtain quality health insurance to lead healthy and safe lives. The extended hours are from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. during weekdays and 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on the weekends, including Wednesday, November 2; Saturday, November 5; Saturday, November 12; Thursday, November 17; Thursday, December 1; Saturday, December 3; Tuesday, December 13; Saturday, December 17.

Individuals interested in scheduling an appointment with StLRS’ Certified Enrollment Counselors should call our office based in Downey at (424) 220-6645 or the toll-free line (844) 245-1900. Additional information is also available on our website at [www.stlrs.org](http://www.stlrs.org) and our social media channels.

**About St. Louise Resource Services**

St. Louise Resource Services is a non-profit organization located in Downey, serving Los Angeles County, that empowers individuals to access healthcare benefits and other social services they may need. Accessibility and inclusion are important to StLRS; thus, we provide free and confidential services in English and Spanish. Services are provided to individuals regardless of race, religion, age, gender, or national origin*.*

**About Covered California**

Covered California is a free service that connects Californians with brand-name health insurance under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Covered California offers discounts to qualifying applicants through Covered California, or grants health insurance through the state’s Medi-Cal program.