

Insurance

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from this time last year.

In addition, another 90,223 people have enrolled in ACA-compliant private plans outside the exchange in Oregon.

According to Oregon officials, as of Jan. 30, 2015, 78 percent of residents who signed up were eligible for an average of \$203 per person/month in advanced premium tax credits.

Eight out of 10 Marketplace enrollees nationally, as of

If you don't sign up in 2015, next year you face Internal Revenue Service fines of \$325 per person or up to 2 percent of your annual income, whichever is greater

December 2014, could obtain coverage for \$100 or less after any applicable tax credits in 2015.

"We are working to meet consumers wherever they are, whether that is online, over the phone or in person," according to a statement released by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

"Consumers should visit HealthCare.gov to review and compare health plan options and find out if they are eligible for financial assistance, which can help pay monthly premiums and reduce out-of-pocket costs when receiving services."

In Oregon: To sign up for individual and family coverage, visit: <https://www.healthcare.gov/apply-and-enroll/>

On the phone, customers can call "all day, every day," at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325. Assistance is free and available in 150 languages.

For more information about Health Insurance Marketplaces, visit: www.healthcare.gov/marketplace.

Poverty

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three key programs:

- **Successful Families 2020:** a five-year community transformation effort that aims to raise children out of poverty. The program will focus on black and other minority children hit hardest by the cycle of poverty.
- **Community Strengthening:** funding 30 nonprofits working with low-income families to reduce poverty.
- **Community Safety Net:** short-term funding for programs that help families with housing, food, heat and crisis assistance.

Thomajan, just named Nonprofit CEO of the Year by the Portland Business Journal, says breaking the cycle of poverty demanded a new approach.

To get there, United Way's leadership group rewrote their funding policies. Instead of doling out grants check by check to worthy programs,

Instead of funding each nonprofit to work alone, United Way would ask them to work together

they would make a bigger long-term commitment to a smaller group of organizations. And instead of funding each nonprofit to work alone, United Way would ask them to work together.

The new community transformation strategy, Successful Families 2020, is at the heart of the new plan. It will fund six nonprofits for five years: Self Enhancement Inc., Albina Head Start; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization; Latino Network; Metropolitan Family Service; and the Native American Youth and Family Center. Self Enhancement Inc., is the lead organization.

The six will share \$75,000 a year for the next five years, a total of \$3.75 million. The money is

unrestricted, but it comes with a mission. All six organizations must work together to shift the needle on poverty.

Across the region, 100,000—that's one in five—children are living in poverty. Successful Families 2020 will work with around 5,000 of those children, helping them graduate from school. Up to 200 of those students should be able to attend college, improving the group's expected lifetime earnings by \$150 million.

"These are all organizations that are getting outside outcomes," Thomajan says. "Our belief is that if we can start to amplify success for these families we will begin to see systemic change."

Rape

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Despite being a virgin at the time and under the care of the state, few people bothered to inquire about the details of the pregnancy. Plus, the fact that he had threatened to kill her, kept Perry's mother silent.

"Maybe, as a Black person, they just saw this as another teenage pregnancy, and nobody really asked any questions," Perry said, trying to explain the unexplainable. "I can't say with certainty...but I'm thinking that if she was White in a foster home and her belly started to grow, then maybe a flag would've went up somewhere and somebody would've investigated more as to why this foster child is pregnant."

In subsequent years, freed by the Oprah episode, Perry's mother became more forthcoming.

"As I grew up, she told me more details of the attack. It was like she had been carrying this around the whole time." But opening that door triggered another set of emotions in Perry.

"I went through different feelings of inadequacy, feeling like I had to overcompensate because I was a child of a rape. Even now, when I say the word 'inad-

'My mom was awesome, she never talked down to me.... But I felt like...I owed it to her to be perfect so she doesn't feel like keeping me was a mistake'

equated,' I get choked up," she said, her voice trembling with emotion.

"My mom was awesome, she never talked down to me....my mom always praised me, always gave me love," Perry said. "But I felt like...I owed it to her to be perfect so she doesn't feel like keeping me was a mistake."

And there was the question of what she

would say when asked about her father. Perry chose to say that he was dead, that he had left, or that she didn't know him, depending on the questioner. But even

while denying his existence, there was also a deep craving to know about this man, wherever he was.

Wanted to know her roots

More than anything else, she did not want her mother to feel badly.

"I didn't rape her, but when I was younger, I used to feel like it was my fault,"

she recalled. "The dreams that she probably could have fulfilled – if she had stayed that innocent virgin who wanted to be a lawyer – she wasn't going to be able to fulfill those because I was here."

Instead of pursuing her dreams, Perry's mother had to shift her focus, looking after the needs of an infant rather than look forward to a career as an attorney.

"Sometimes she was a little more paranoid than I would think is regular," Perry said. "When I was growing up my mom was so strict, or smothering, when it came down to me, particularly."

Once, her mother sent her to the corner store for a few items. There, she ran into a family friend, an older man. He offered to buy her something – she chose cookies – and they parted ways.

She thought nothing of it – until her mother went into a rage.

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Commemorating Bobbie Olive

The family of Oregon's first heart donor, Bobbie L. Olive, is honoring his memory with an annual event during the Valentine's Day holiday. In cooperation with the nonprofit group Donate Life Northwest, Bobbie's daughter Shannon Olive, above at left, and her mother Martha Van Arsdale are hosting a gathering Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Olive Garden restaurant to celebrate the gift of life he gave to recipient Wesley Merrill of Battle Ground, Washington, in 1985. Olive was Black and Merrill, who died in 1990, was white. For more information call 503-875-1725 or email shannon.olive15@pcc.edu. To learn more about how you can save a life through organ donation, go to www.donatelifenw.org.



PHOTO BY JERRY FOSTER

Information is available on the web at www.HealthCare.gov and in Spanish, at www.CuidadoDe-Salud.gov.

And in find local help at www.Localhelp.healthcare.gov.

In Washington: Washington residents can enroll at www.wahealthplanfinder.org.

To talk with a real person, Washington customers can call 1-855-WAFINDER (1-855-923 4633.)

The Exchange is boosting its hours at the toll-free Cus-

tommer Support Center on Feb. 14 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 15 from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Enrollment events are taking place this weekend in downtown Seattle, the Federal Way Commons Mall and the Vancouver Mall. To view the complete schedule of events, go to www.wahbexchange.org/how-enroll/community-events.

For more information on the Washington Health Benefit Exchange go to www.wahbexchange.org.

Child Poverty by Race in Multnomah County

- White Alone: 18%
- African American: 52%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 49%
- Asian: 15%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 43%
- 2+ Races: 19%
- Hispanic/Latino: 38%