

the “ability to do direct and targeted outreach” to its existing consumers to see where there are gaps and who can be targeted for enrollment in the future.

A third reason, she said, is “the ability to implement policies that are specific to Nevada and more in line with Nevadans’ needs.”

“So on healthcare.gov, we’re working with a pretty archaic and rigid service or platform that really did not allow states any kind of unique flexibility,” Korbolic said. “And with our own exchange, we have the ability to implement policies—you know, within compliance of the federal and state laws—that allow for flexibility that’s necessary.”

An example of this is the exchange’s flexibility to coordinate more closely with the Department of Health and Human Services on issues surrounding Medicaid.

“So, when people apply for Medicaid and get denied because they’re over assets, meaning they don’t have a low enough income to be eligible for Medicaid, then what happens is we get a transfer from the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, and we can invite those people to come over and claim their application and enroll in a qualified health plan,” Korbolic said. “So what we’ve seen throughout this open enrollment period is 21,000 individuals who applied for Medicaid and were denied that we now have 60 days from their denial to get in touch with them and connect them to a qualified health plan.”

And this year, people who are eligible to complete applications they started before the

deadline—as well as those who’ve been denied Medicaid—still have time choose from plans and coverage carriers that are more diverse than in recent years.

“We had Anthem join us back,” Davis said. “They were not part of last year’s enrollment or the year before. So that was really exciting and created some more stability and increased competition for Nevadans. So Washoe, Clark and Nye counties have access to all 27 qualified health plans.”

Residents of Nevada’s 14 rural counties have access 17 plan options. And for the first time, Nevadans have also been able to get dental care without purchasing health care, too.

“So a lot of people were interested in that, and you could find some really good deals this year for just purchasing a dental plan,” Davis said.

There are also more plans in the work for next year’s enrollment period—spurred on by the increased freedom of Nevada no longer using the federal enrollment platform.

“So one thing we’ll be talking about next year is the extension of our open enrollment period and whether or not our carriers and our stakeholders are interested and whether that’d be a benefit to Nevadans,” Korbolic said. “And that’s not something we could do if we’re on healthcare.gov.” □

Learn more at [nevadahealthlink.com](http://nevadahealthlink.com).

## Nobody home



A little after noon on Monday, emergency services responded to a fire at an abandoned house at 447 Nevada St. Seen here from behind, the fire burned in close proximity to several businesses on Fifth Street. According to the Reno Gazette Journal, the home was declared a total loss. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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