

Small Biz Prep For Health Law

Jackson Heights Tour Focuses On Benefits



Shown from left to right are Seth Taylor, executive director of the 82nd Street Partnership in Jackson Heights; Crown Pharmacy owner Zafar Kaif; and Rep. Joe Crowley.

Rep. Joe Crowley toured the businesses of the 82nd Street Partnership in Jackson Heights and met with owners last month to discuss what they need to know to benefit from the Affordable Care Act.

“The Affordable Care Act will provide our small business owners with new options for providing quality, affordable health coverage to their employees if they choose to,” said Crowley. “As the new health care law goes into effect, it is vitally important we continue to communicate with our business community and make sure they know how to take advantage of the resources available to them and what they should plan for in the coming months.”

“In the course of running a business, whether it be a pharmacy or a bakery, finding time to research and understand legislation like the Affordable Care Act can be difficult— which is why we so appreciate our Congressman and his staff bringing the facts directly to the business owners,” added 82nd Street Partnership Executive Director Seth Taylor. “We look forward to future visits from Congressman Crowley as we work to improve quality of life and promote small business growth in the neighborhood.”

Crowley stated the provisions in the health care law will be an improvement over the current market where small businesses have had many problems obtaining affordable insurance up until now. For example, currently small businesses pay 18 percent more in premiums than large firms for the same benefits.

The tour was part of the congressman’s ongoing efforts to prepare the business community for the upcoming changes. Previously, Crowley partnered with the Queens Chamber of Commerce to host a roundtable discussion with business leaders and experts on the Affordable Care Act. The seminar featured presentations from small business experts and federal agencies such as the Small Business Administration and Internal Revenue Service, detailing what businesses will need to know to benefit from the new law.

A new call center is opening specifically to serve small businesses interested in the new SHOP Marketplace that will be available in every state. The SHOP program launches on Oct. 1 to give small businesses new ways to provide health coverage to their employees. The new SHOP Marketplace Call Center is a new resource to help small businesses get information to make the best decisions for themselves and their employees.

The new call center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and hours will expand after Oct. 1. The phone number of the new Call Center for Small Businesses is: 1-800-706-7893.

Another resource for employers is a health care wizard for employers that is available online at business.usa.gov/healthcare.