



**Lighthouse**  
HEALTH PLAN

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Lighthouse Health Plan Launches Operations as a Locally-Based, Doctor-Led Medicaid Health Plan**

**Pensacola, Florida (November 15, 2018)** - Today, Lighthouse Health Plan announces its launch as a doctor-led Medicaid health plan based in the Florida Panhandle. By linking providers with the new Lighthouse Health Plan, we create a new, local way of thinking about health care and the role of health plans in our communities.

Headquartered in Pensacola, Fla., Lighthouse Health Plan is a community-based health insurance plan created and run by doctors. Lighthouse will begin providing Medicaid coverage to beneficiaries in Medicaid Regions 1 and 2 beginning February 1, 2019, subject to the Agency for Health Care Administration's (AHCA) approval.

"As a provider-led health plan, Lighthouse has a unique opportunity to bring health care and health insurance coverage together," said Christie Spencer, CEO, Lighthouse Health Plan. "By working directly with doctors, Lighthouse does not have to navigate all the things traditional insurance companies do. We can convene the right set of health care and community resources to make sure patients receive the care they need."

Approximately 200,000 people in the Florida Panhandle qualify for Medicaid coverage. Of those, 70 percent are children. Lighthouse is partnering with a broad network of doctors, hospitals and other providers to serve members. Thousands of providers have already joined the Lighthouse network. These organizations are coming together because of the need for a more coordinated, lower cost care for Medicaid beneficiaries that are locally based.

"As a physician, I am pleased to join a health plan with roots in our community," said Dan Sontheimer, Lighthouse's Chief Medical Officer. "As a doctor-led plan, we will have new resources to ease the administrative burden and allow doctors to focus on what they do best – providing high quality care to patients."

### **About Lighthouse Health Plan**

Lighthouse Health Plan is a local, community-based health plan created and run by doctors. Lighthouse will serve Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton counties in Medicaid

Region 1 of Florida; and Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, and Washington counties in Medicaid Region 2 as a Provider Service Network (PSN).

The PSN plan was created by Florida state legislature in 1997 when the Legislature authorized the Florida Medicaid program to establish a Medicaid PSN demonstration project to capitalize on high-volume Medicaid providers and their ability to manage the medical care of Medicaid beneficiaries they serve. "Provider Service Network" means an entity qualified pursuant to s. 409.912(2) of which a controlling interest is owned by a health care provider, or group of affiliated providers, or a public agency or entity that delivers health services. Health care providers include Florida-licensed health care professionals or licensed health care facilities, federally qualified health care centers, and home health care agencies.

For more information about Lighthouse Health Plan, please call 1-844-243-5176 or visit [lighthousehealthplan.com](http://lighthousehealthplan.com).