



Are You Eligible for Help with Your **Health Insurance Costs?**

The health care law helps many people pay for health insurance.

Based on your income, family size and the health plan you choose, you may qualify for tax credits and help paying for coverage.

There are two ways eligible people may get help paying for coverage – tax credits and cost-sharing assistance. These funds are available when you enroll in coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace. The Marketplace provides a way for you to compare and buy a health insurance plan that best fits your needs. You can enroll for health insurance during open enrollment, which starts this year on **Nov. 15, 2014** and ends on **Feb. 15, 2015**.

Tax Credits

These credits will help eligible people pay for insurance premiums – the monthly cost of coverage. They are available to people who purchase coverage on their own (not with an

employer) through the Marketplace. The credit is designed so even those who have little or no income or do not file an income tax return can still benefit. If you qualify, the credit can be paid in advance to your insurance company.

Cost-Sharing Assistance

Most health insurance plans have out-of-pocket costs that you pay at the time you receive medical treatment. You may pay part of the cost for a doctor visit, medical procedure or test. Cost-sharing assistance helps lower these out-of-pocket costs. If you qualify for a premium tax credit and your income is below \$29,175, you will also be eligible for cost-sharing assistance.

Think BlueSM



BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

The information provided in this document is based on current information, should not be considered comprehensive and should not be relied upon for benefit decisions. It should not be considered legal or tax advice.

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Number of people in your household

		1	2	3	4	5	6
Private Marketplace health plans	You may qualify for lower premiums on a Marketplace insurance plan if your yearly income is between... <i>See next row if your income is at the lower end of this range.</i>	\$11,670 – \$46,680	\$15,730 – \$62,920	\$19,790 – \$79,160	\$23,850 – \$95,400	\$27,910 – \$111,640	\$31,970 – \$127,880
	You may qualify for lower premiums AND lower out-of-pocket costs for Marketplace insurance if your yearly income is between...	\$11,670 – \$29,175	\$15,730 – \$39,325	\$19,790 – \$49,475	\$23,850 – \$59,625	\$27,910 – \$69,775	\$31,970 – \$79,925
Medicaid coverage	If your state is expanding Medicaid: You may qualify for Medicaid coverage if your yearly income is below...	\$16,105	\$21,707	\$27,310	\$32,913	\$32,913	\$44,119
	If your state isn't expanding Medicaid: You may not qualify for any Marketplace savings programs if your yearly income is below...	\$11,670	\$15,730	\$19,790	\$23,850	\$27,910	\$31,970

<https://www.healthcare.gov/lower-costs/qualifying-for-lower-costs/>

How Much Cost Assistance Should You Expect?

Financial assistance is determined by your household income, family size, and the health plan you choose. If you meet income requirements, your health plan will pay a greater amount of covered costs, reducing how much you pay. For example, you may pick a plan for which you pay from 10 to 40% of covered costs. The amount is also based in part on any medical procedure or tests you have – each may have a deductible or coinsurance cost.

Penalties for Not Getting Health Insurance

The law now requires almost all U.S. citizens and legal residents to get and keep a minimum level of health coverage. * Failing to obtain insurance may result in a tax penalty on your annual income tax return.

Tax penalties for failure to get health insurance: A percent of your income or a flat fee – whichever is higher.		
Year	% of Income	Flat fee per person
2015	2% of taxable income or	\$325 per adult and \$162.50 per child, up to \$975 per family
2016	2.5% of taxable income or	\$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child, up to \$2,085 per family
After 2016	The tax will increase each year following the cost-of-living adjustment	

*A few groups/individuals are exempt: certain religious groups, American Indians and people who are incarcerated or in financial hardship.

You may compare and buy a health plan on the Marketplace beginning Nov. 15, 2014 through Feb.15, 2015.