



Assistor Newsletter Volume 29 In this issue: NY State of Health Marketplace Introducing the Medicaid Affordable New "Plans by Consumer Asks Congress to Ads Help Consumers Connectivity 'Stay Connected" **Fact Sheets** Continue ARPA County" Tool Program Material Updates Assistor Federal NY State of NY State of NY State of Assistor Health Staffs Health Spring Include Recent Poverty Level Recertification Health Shares **Vaccination Sites** Income Levels **Resources Available Events** and Training Health Tip Posts

NY State of Health Encourages Congress to Continue ARPA Subsidies

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law 12 years ago on March 23, 2010, opening doors to quality, affordable health coverage for millions of New Yorkers. Today, NY State of Health continues to serve as a critical safety net for over 6.5 million New Yorkers during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) with many receiving enhanced federal tax credit savings through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to reduce premiums.

As New York prepares for the PHE wind down, certain Medicaid and Child Health Plus requirements that were waived will resume and could result in Medicaid and Child Health Plus beneficiaries to become disenrolled. Additionally, if Congress does not extend these savings beyond 2022, consumers who received ARPA enhanced tax credit savings could see their monthly premiums rise by 58 percent.

NY State of Health has created a new fact sheet for every New York Congressional District to show how this change could negatively impact the ability for many New Yorkers to maintain their health coverage and to encourage Congress to continue ARPA subsidies. These **NY State of**

Health Congressional District fact sheets include enrollment data and statistics detailing the significant cost and coverage implications across New York State that emphasize the importance of enhanced federal tax savings to make coverage even more accessible and affordable.



NY State of Health Ads Help Consumers to "Stay Connected"

"Stay Connected" ads encourage New Yorkers to sign up for NY State of Health text messages, so they won't miss important updates regarding their plans or renewal reminders in anticipation of the federal Public Health Emergency ending.

Ads are being shared on multiple advertising channels including TV, digital, and out-of-home platforms, and are running in English, Spanish, and Chinese statewide. They can be viewed on our website <u>here</u>.



Introducing the New "Plans by County" Tool

Consumers can now access a new interactive NY State of <u>Health Plans by County tool</u> to easily find participating health plans in every county for each health insurance program. The tool includes plans for Medicaid, Child Health Plus, the Essential Plan, Individual Marketplace Qualified Health Plans, Individual Marketplace Stand Alone Dental Plans, Small Business Marketplace Qualified Health Plans, and Small Business Marketplace Dental Plans. After selecting a plan, consumers can click on an additional link to learn more about each health insurance program.

New Opportunity for Consumers to Access Affordable Internet Service and Health Coverage!

Access to affordable, high-speed internet service is essential for all New Yorkers, especially when it comes to insuring their health. New York State is participating in the federal government's new <u>Affordable Connectivity</u> <u>Program</u> which provides discounts of up to \$30 a month toward internet service for eligible, low-income families. To better connect consumers to coverage, NY State of Health has created social media posts urging consumers to sign up for the new Affordable Connectivity Program. The posts direct consumers to a 2022 program application at <u>nystateofhealth.ny.gov.</u> If you haven't already, please engage with us – like and share these posts!



Suite of Medicaid Consumer Fact Sheets Grows

New fact sheets on chronic kidney disease and dental care have been added to the growing suite of <u>Medicaid consumer fact</u> <u>sheets</u>, which include information on prevention and management of chronic health conditions, as well as relevant Medicaid benefits to help members stay healthy. Topics include asthma control, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, HIV-PrEP (Human Immunodeficiency Virus - Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), periodontal disease, sickle cell disease, smoking cessation, and tooth decay. Fact sheets are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Haitian Creole, Bengali, and Korean, Polish, Yiddish, Arabic and Italian. The three most recently added fact sheets on chronic kidney disease, periodontal disease, and tooth decay are currently only available in English; however, translations will be available in the near future.

New Material Updates Include Recent Income Levels

Check out our revised NY State of <u>Health At a Glance Cards</u> and <u>Essential Plan Fact Sheet</u> recently updated to reflect the new 2022 federal poverty level guidelines that became effective March 5th. These materials have been posted in English on our website and will be available in other languages soon.

New Assistor Resources Available on Federal Poverty Levels

On February 18, 2022, all NY State of Health Assistors were sent the 2022 Federal Poverty Levels (FPLs) and Desk Aid for the Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and Essential Plan programs.

This email also included the 2021 Federal Poverty Levels for the 2022 Qualified Health Plan year. Please note, until the next Open Enrollment period, the 2021 Federal Poverty Levels will be utilized for Qualified Health Plans.

Any Assistor who needs copies of these resources can send an email to **Assistor.Admin@health.ny.gov** to request them.



NY State of Health Staffs Community Vax Sites to Get More New Yorkers Covered

Be part of this historical effort to educate and protect New Yorkers! Sign up to staff new Vax Pop-Up sites to help consumers who are getting vaccinated and boosted get the health insurance information they need to enroll.

NY State of Health NYC Outreach Director/NYSDOH Vaccine Team Statewide Director Marci McCall poses with Lacey the therapy dog at the #Vax for Kids Pop-Up site held at the Plattsburgh YMCA on December 18, 2022, where assistors helped consumers learn about the Marketplace. Four therapy dogs were brought in every two hours to help kids ease their anxiety of getting Covid-19 shots. Two hundred and twenty-six children, ages 5-11, were vaccinated at the event that day.

Spring Events Bring Opportunities for Education and Enrollment Assistance

More NY State of Health event opportunities are springing up across New York State! Your help is needed! Keep your eye out for staffing invitations, including events at YMCA 2022 Healthy Kids Day, colleges, job and health fairs, libraries, and festivals. Send consumers to the **<u>NY State of Health events map</u>** to find out where to go for in-person help at events in their own community.

Assistor Recertification and Training

In January, we updated all of our training materials from the online certification training course. These materials remain available for any currently registered assistor who would like access. If you have not already done so, you may still request access to the updated training materials by sending an email to **eligibility.training.support@health.ny.gov.**

NY State of Health Shares Health Tip Posts



Did you know our social media posts offer fun ways to lead healthier lives? Check out #Healthtip Tuesdays! Share and like us so consumers can get free, healthy recipes and suggestions for healthy routines and activities.



Tell us what you think!

We hope this campaign information is helpful to you, especially as we all navigate new outreach strategies to connect with consumers to share information, communicate important updates and send timely enrollment reminders.

If you have any questions or ideas for additional outreach content, please email us at **NYSOHOutreach@health.ny.gov.**

