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**Important Changes Are Coming Soon for New York Medicaid, Child Health Plus and the Essential Plan**

**Annual Eligibility Reviews for Public Health Programs to Resume in Spring 2023**

**Communications Tool Kit is Available to Help Educate and Prepare New Yorkers**

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, over 9 million New Yorkers who were enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus (CHPlus), and the Essential Plan (EP) maintained their health insurance coverage without annual eligibility reviews. However, federal rules have changed, and annual eligibility reviews will resume beginning Spring 2023.

Beginning this Spring, renewal notices will be sent to enrollees in these programs based on their enrollment end dates. Renewal notices will include the deadline, ranging from June 30, 2023, through May 31, 2024, to take action to renew their insurance or risk having a gap in coverage. Enrollment in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) will remain open through Spring of 2024, to allow consumers who become QHP eligible enough time to pick a new health insurance plan. Enrollment in New York's public programs remains open year-round. Eligible New Yorkers who enroll in a QHP will continue to receive enhanced federal tax credits through the **Inflation Reduction Act** to lower their premiums, including higher-income consumers.

Learn more about these important changes [here](#).

NY State of Health has developed an online **Communications Tool Kit** that includes many resources to help educate New Yorkers about these changes. These resources are posted in 14 languages. Our updated PHE poster and fact sheet are currently available for downloading and printing to display at community events and in check-in areas; we are preparing to print these as well. Pre-written social media posts and images, ad campaign videos, and infographics can be shared through your social media account(s). Drop-in articles have been drafted for you to add to your website or newsletters. Ready-made e-blast messages are available to send to your partners and distribution lists.

We appreciate your help as we all work to ensure New Yorkers remain informed throughout this renewal process and stay connected to their affordable health insurance!

**New York State Department of Health Proposes Expanding the Essential Plan**

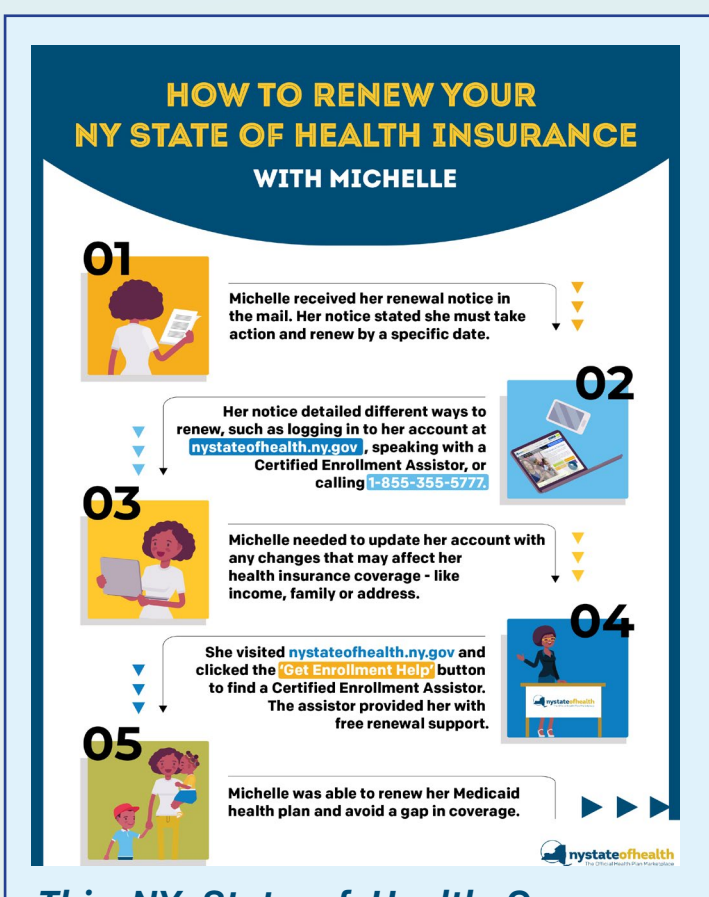
The New York State Department of Health recently posted for public comment a draft Section 1332 Waiver application to expand the Essential Plan to more "low to middle" income New Yorkers.

If approved, the Section 1332 Waiver will expand upon the existing Essential Plan by providing newly eligible consumers (with incomes between 200 percent and 250 percent of the FPL) health insurance with no deductible and low out-of-pocket costs, for a \$15 monthly premium. This is significantly more affordable than what is available to them today. Current Essential Plan enrollees (with incomes up to 200 percent of FPL) will continue to have no premiums, no deductibles, and current maximum out-of-pocket contribution levels. Public input regarding this proposal ends on March 11, 2023. Learn more [here](#).

**New Materials Added to Public Health Emergency Communications Tool Kit**

The **PHE-tool-kit** has been expanded to include additional information to help consumers understand the renewal process and avoid a coverage gaps. New and updated materials include:

- A **Consumer Journey infographic** that can be printed out and shared with consumers and partners. A quantity of these will be printed and made available for ordering.
- Updated **social media posts** with text and graphics that can be shared to help consumers prepare to renew their health insurance.
- Updated PHE call scripts and **FAQs** to share with staff to provide information about renewing and answers to common questions that might be asked by the people they serve.
- **Congressional District Fact Sheets** and **County Fact Sheets** for elected officials explaining the important changes that are coming for public program enrollees when eligibility reviews resume in Spring 2023. These fact sheets provide data on how many individuals in each congressional district or county are enrolled in Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and the Essential Plan through NY State of Health. They also provide information on what constituents can do to prepare for their renewals and what they will need to do when it is their time to renew. The Consumer Journey infographic is included as a second page to help elected officials understand the renewal process.
- An updated **PHE fact sheet** providing fast facts on renewing Medicaid, Child Health Plus or Essential Plan health insurance.
- **Updated PHE Posters** are available online in two sizes for downloading and posting at various community sites. A quantity of these will be printed and made available for ordering in multiple languages.



*This NY State of Health Consumer Journey Infographic was created to help consumers visualize the renewal process after eligibility reviews return for Medicaid, EP and CHPlus.*

**Coming Soon: Full Suite of 2023 NY State of Health At a Glance Cards**

The NY State of Health At a Glance Cards are being updated to reflect the 2023 Federal Poverty Levels (FPLs). So far, the updated Child Health Plus (CHPlus) **At a Glance Card** is available online for downloading. Updated Medicaid and EP At a Glance Cards will be available soon. The Qualified Health Plan (QHP) At a Glance card will be updated later, but before the next Open Enrollment Period begins. These cards and other educational materials can be found in our **Outreach Tool Kit**. We will update you when print versions are available for ordering.

**NY State of Health to Launch New Ads Encouraging New Yorkers to Renew Their Coverage When It's Their Time**

New ads will start running in April to educate New Yorkers enrolled in Medicaid, CHPlus and EP about the importance of taking action to renew their health insurance coverage when it's time. Ads will run on all platforms: search, social, display, print, TV/Radio and in metro/transit locations. In the meantime, NY State of Health will continue to push out messaging to remind New Yorkers to update their contact information and sign up for text messaging to help ensure their renewal notices reach them.

**NY State of Health Events Provide New Educational and Enrollment Opportunities!**

Your help and participation at various events around the state is an important part of our outreach strategy to help New Yorkers find and maintain affordable health insurance. Sign up to staff upcoming NY State of Health opportunities at libraries, job and health fairs, museums, tax assistance sites and spring expos and festivals. Share upcoming **NY State of Health events** with your clients and partners.



*Assistor Jessica Faltisco helps an attendee get NY State of Health information at the 2023 Northeast Outdoor Farm show featuring over 400 exhibitors, held in Syracuse New York on February 23-25th.*



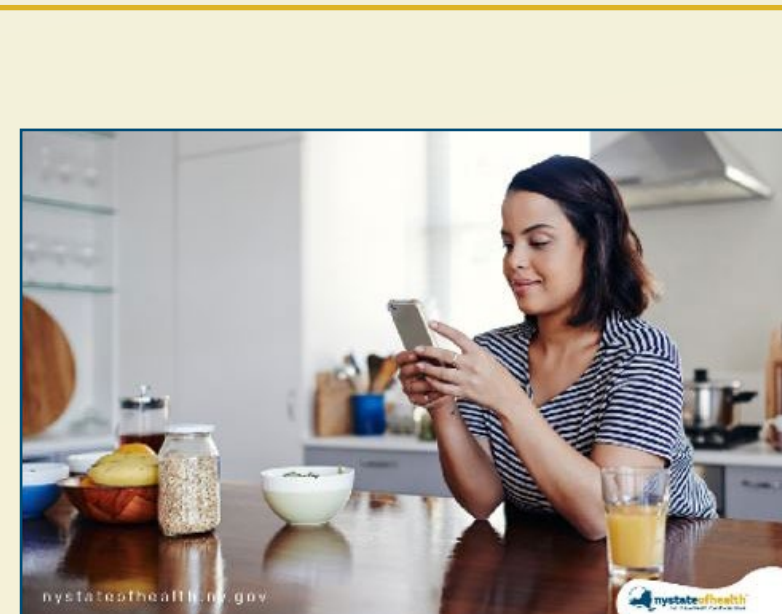
*Assistor Jayana Stalley shares health insurance information with Cornwall Library patrons on February 15,*



*Assistor Rebecca Stern answers health enrollment questions at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) event located at the Albany Public Library on February 15, 2023.*



*Hundreds of Binghamton Black Bears fans had the opportunity to learn about NY State of Health with the help of Assistor Dieula Louis on game day at the Visions Veterans Memorial Arena on February 17, 2023.*



**Social Media Posts Help Consumers Stay Connected**

NY State of Health **social media posts** are available to share through your organization and with your partners highlighting the importance of protecting the health of New Yorkers and staying up to date on health insurance. Text START to 1-866-988-0327 to opt-in for text alerts from @NYStateofHealth. Learn more: [#onNYNY](https://on.ny.gov/34gwvcr) #TextAlert. Continue to follow, like and share NY State of Health posts to help New Yorkers enroll and renew their coverage!

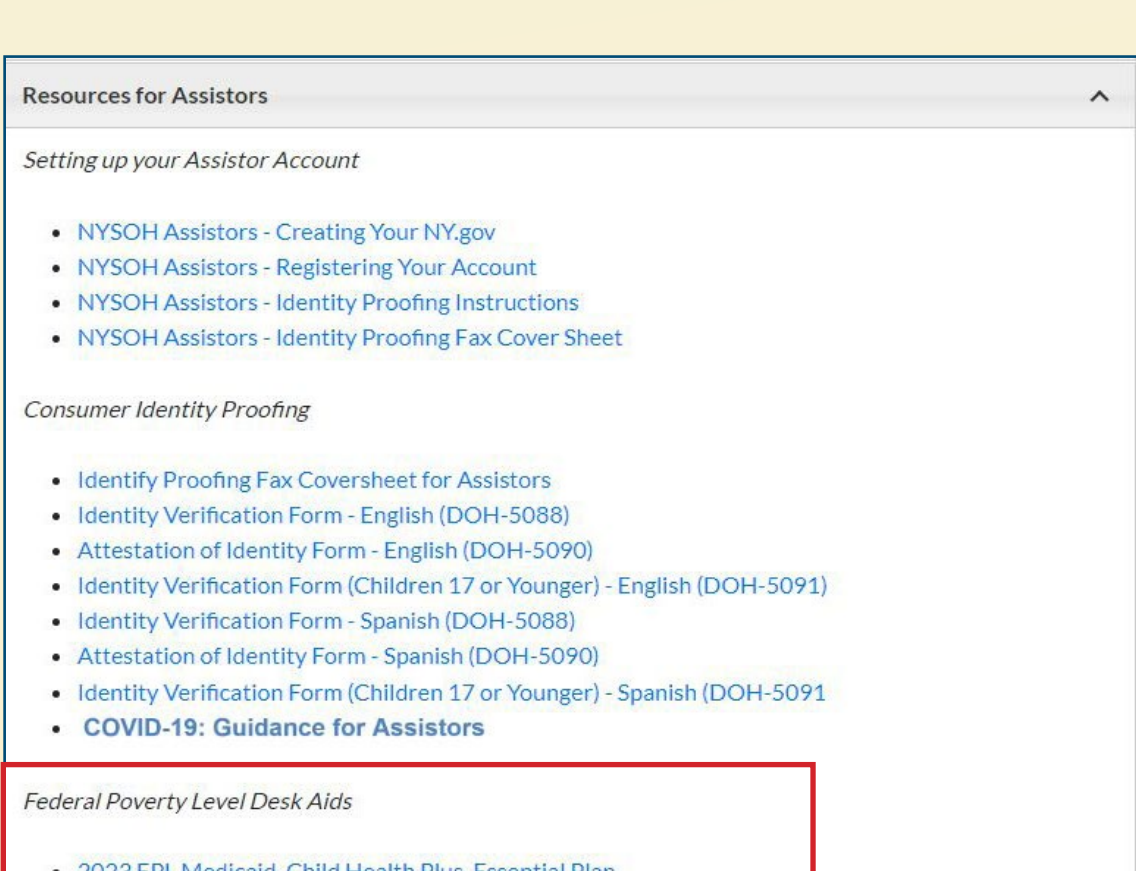
- Twitter
- Pinterest
- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- Instagram
- YouTube
- Spotify
- Snapchat

**New Assistor Resources Available on Federal Poverty Levels**

On February 8, 2023, NY State of Health Assistors were sent the 2023 Federal Poverty Levels (FPLs) and Desk Aid for the Medicaid, Child Health Plus, and Essential Plan programs.

This email also included the 2023 Federal Poverty Levels for the 2022 Qualified Health Plan year. Please note, until the next Open Enrollment period, the 2022 Federal Poverty Levels will be utilized for Qualified Health Plans.

You can find these resources posted on the **Assistor Tool Kit**, under "Resources for Assistors".



**Forms 1095-A and 1095-B**

A training webinar for Assistors titled, "Tax Credits, Form 1095-A and Form 1095-B," has been posted and can be accessed using the link below.

<https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/news/2023-webinar-training-tax-credits-form-1095a-and-form-1095b>

NY State of Health consumers who were enrolled in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) in 2022 and received financial help paying for their plan received notices alerting them that they will get an IRS Form 1095-A from NY State of Health to prepare their 2022 federal tax returns.

- For further guidance on Form 1095-A, consumers can review the **Premium Tax Credits and Form 1095-A** page of our website which includes resources including a video and FAQs.

Form 1095-B is not needed for tax preparation for the income tax year 2022 but it is available to consumers upon request.

- For further guidance on 1095-B, consumers can review the **FAQs on our 1095-B** page.

**Employer Health Insurance Affordability Calculator**

On January 13, 2023, a new **video demonstration for Assistors** was posted on how to help consumers determine whether their Employer Sponsored Health Insurance (ESHI) is considered affordable under new "fixing the family glitch" guidelines beginning in 2023. Consumers whose ESHI is considered unaffordable may be eligible for financial assistance in NY State of Health.

**Tell us what you think!** We hope this 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](mailto:NYSOHOutreach@health.ny.gov).

