



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 11729
Albany, NY 12211

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: July 10, 2015

NY State of Health Number: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000002148

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On April 22, 2015, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health Marketplace’s March 24, 2015 eligibility determination.

The enclosed Decision, rendered after that hearing, is issued by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health.

If you have questions about your Decision, you can contact us by:

- Calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- Sending Mail to:
 NY State of Health Appeals
 P.O. Box 11729
 Albany, NY 12211
- Sending a Fax to 1-855-900-5557

When contacting NY State of Health about your appeal and/or the Decision, please refer to the Appeal Identification Number at the top of this notice.

Legal Authority

We are sending you this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 45 CFR § 155.545(b).

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

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[REDACTED]
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Issues

The issues presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health are:

Did the Marketplace properly determine that you and your spouse were eligible to receive an advanced premium tax credit of up to \$446.00 per month and cost-sharing reductions?

Did the Marketplace properly determine that you and your spouse were not eligible for Medicaid?

Procedural History

The Marketplace received your application for health insurance on March 23, 2015. The Marketplace rendered a preliminary eligibility determination stating that you and your spouse are eligible to receive up to \$446.00 per month in advance premium tax credits and eligible for cost-sharing reductions. Your daughter was found eligible for Medicaid.

On the same day you spoke to the Marketplace's Account Review Unit and requested an appeal insofar as your and your spouse's financial eligibility determination.

On March 24, 2015, the Marketplace issued a notice consistent with the March 23, 2015 preliminary eligibility determination.

On April 22, 2015, you appeared for the scheduled telephone hearing. Testimony was taken at the hearing. The record was held open until April 24, 2015 to allow you to submit additional income documentation.

On April 24, 2015, you faxed additional income documentation to the Marketplace Appeal Unit. That documentation has been marked collectively as "Appellant's Exhibit A" and has been made part of the record. The record is now closed.

Findings of Fact

A review of the record supports the following findings of fact:

1. You are applying for health insurance through the Marketplace for yourself, your spouse and daughter.
2. You plan on filing a 2015 federal income tax return with the tax status of married filing jointly and will claim one dependent on that return.
3. You testified that you are currently employed as a real estate agent.
4. You testified that your employment is commission-based and did not earn any money in March 2015.
5. Your spouse is currently employed.
6. On April 24, 2015 you faxed to the Marketplace Appeals Unit your spouse's statement of earnings. These statements indicate gross earnings of :
 - (a) \$1,346.15 on February 6, 2015 (Check No. [REDACTED]).
 - (b) \$134.58 on February 20, 2015, (Check No. [REDACTED]).
 - (c) \$1,346.15 on March 6, 2015, (Check No. [REDACTED]).
 - (d) \$1,346.15 on March 20, 2015, (Check No. [REDACTED]).
 - (e) \$1,346.15 on April 17, 2015, (Check No. [REDACTED]).
7. According to your March 23, 2015 Marketplace application, you attested that your 2015 expected household income would be \$46,800.00, the same as last year.
8. You reside in New York County, New York.

Conflicting evidence, if any, was considered and found to be less credible than the evidence noted above.

Applicable Law and Regulations

Advance Premium Tax Credit:

The advance premium tax credit (APTC) is available to a person who is eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan (QHP) and (1) expects to have a household income between 138% and 400% of the 2014 federal poverty level (FPL); (2) expects to file a tax return and claim a personal exemption deduction for a person who meets the eligibility requirements to enroll in a QHP; and (3) is not otherwise eligible for minimum essential coverage except through the individual market (see 45 CFR § 155.305(f), 42 CFR § 435.119(b), 42 CFR § 435.911(b)(1), 42 CFR § 435.603(d)(4)).

The maximum amount of APTC that can be authorized equals

- 1) the cost of the health insurance premium for the taxpayer's coverage family in the second lowest cost silver plan offered through NY State of Health in the county where the taxpayer resides

minus

- 2) the taxpayer's expected contribution amount

(see 26 USC § 36B, 26 CFR § 1.36B-3).

The taxpayer's expected contribution amount is the amount that the taxpayer is expected to spend on health insurance premiums. The expected contribution for 2015 is set at 2.01% to 9.56% of household income (26 USC § 36B(b)(3)(A), IRS Rev. Proc. 2014-37).

For annual household income in the range of at least 200% but less than 250% of the 2014 FPL, the expected contribution is between 6.34% and 8.10% of the household income (see 26 CFR § 1.36B-3(g)(2), 45 CFR § 155.300(a)), IRS Rev. Proc. 2014-37).

In an analysis of APTC eligibility, the determination is based on the FPL "for the benefit year for which coverage is requested (45 CFR § 155.305(f)(1)(i)). On the date of your application, that was the 2014 FPL, which is \$19,790.00 for a three-person household (79 Fed. Reg. 3593, 3593).

People who use the APTC to help pay health insurance premiums must file a federal tax return and reconcile their expected income (stated on the Marketplace application) with their actual income (stated on their income tax form). Those who take less tax credit in advance than they claim on the tax return may get the rest of it as an income tax refund. Those who take more tax credit in advance than

they can claim on their tax return will owe the difference as additional income taxes (26 CFR § 1.36B-4).

Cost-Sharing Reductions:

Cost-sharing reductions (CSR) are available to a person who (1) is eligible to enroll in a QHP through the Marketplace, (2) meets the requirements to receive APTC, (3) is expected to have an annual household income that does not exceed 250% of the FPL for the plan year coverage is requested and (4) is enrolled in a silver-level QHP (45 CFR § 155.305(g)(1)).

Medicaid:

Medicaid can be provided through the Marketplace to adults who: (1) are age 19 or older and under age 65, (2) are not pregnant, (3) are not entitled to or enrolled for Medicare benefits under part A or B of title XVIII of the Act, (4) are not otherwise eligible for and enrolled for mandatory coverage under a State's Medicaid State plan in accordance with subpart B of this part, and (5) have a household modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) that is at or below 138% of the FPL for the applicable family size (42 CFR § 435.119(b), 42 CFR § 435.911(b)(1), 42 CFR § 435.603(d)(4)), N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 366(1)(b)).

In an analysis of Medicaid eligibility, the determination is based on the FPL “for the applicable budget period used to determine an individual's eligibility” (42 CFR § 435.4). On the date of your application, that was the 2015 FPL, which is \$20,090.00 for a three-person household (80 Fed. Reg. 3236, 3237).

Financial eligibility for Medicaid for applicants who are not currently receiving Medicaid benefits is based on current monthly household income and family size (42 CFR § 435.603(h)(1); State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-0055-MM3, as approved March 19, 2014).

Legal Analysis

The first issue is whether the Marketplace properly determined that you were eligible for an advance premium tax credit (APTC) of up to \$446.00 per month.

In the application that was submitted on March 23, 2015, you attested to an expected yearly household income of \$46,800.00, and the eligibility determination relied upon that information.

According to the record you plan on filing your 2015 federal income tax return with the tax status of married filing jointly and claim one dependent on that return. Therefore, the record indicates that you a tax household of three.

You reside in New York County, where the second lowest cost silver plan available for a couple through the Marketplace costs \$743.50 per month.

An annual income of \$46,800.00 is 236.48% of the 2014 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a three-person tax household. At 236.48% of the FPL, the expected contribution to the cost of the health insurance premium is 7.62% of income, or \$297.34 per month.

The maximum amount of APTC that can be approved equals the cost of the second lowest cost silver plan available through the Marketplace for an individual in your county (\$743.50 per month) minus your expected contribution (\$297.34 per month), which equals \$446.16 per month. Therefore, the Marketplace correctly determined that you are eligible to receive an APTC up to \$446.00 per month.

The second issue is whether the Marketplace properly determined that you were eligible for cost-sharing reductions.

Cost-sharing reductions are available to a person who has a household income no greater than 250% of the FPL. Since a household income of \$46,800.00 is 236.48% of the 2014 FPL, the Marketplace correctly found you to be eligible for cost-sharing reductions.

The third issue is whether the Marketplace properly determined that you were not eligible for Medicaid.

Medicaid can be provided through the Marketplace to adults between the ages of 19 and 65 who meet the non-financial requirements and have a household modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) that is at or below 138% of the FPL for the applicable family size. On the date of your application, the relevant FPL was \$20,090.00 for a three-person household. Since \$46,800 is 232.95% of the 2015 FPL, the Marketplace properly found you to be not eligible for Medicaid on an expected annual income basis, using the information provided in your application.

On April 24, 2015, you faxed to the Marketplace Appeals Unit your spouse's statement of earnings. These statements indicate gross earnings of:

- (a) \$1,346.15 on February 6, 2015,
- (b) \$134.58 on February 20, 2015,
- (c) \$1,346.15 on March 6, 2015,
- (d) \$1,346.15 on March 20, 2015,
- (e) \$1,346.15 on April 17, 2015.

You testified that you are currently employed as a real estate agent and that your employment is commission-based and you did not earn any money in March 2015.

Financial eligibility for Medicaid for applicants who are not currently receiving Medicaid benefits is based on current monthly household income and family size. To be eligible for Medicaid, you would need to meet the non-financial criteria and have an income no greater than 138% of the FPL, which is \$2,311.00 per month for a three-person household. Since your March 2015 income was $(\$1,346.15 \times 2) \$2,692.30$, you did not qualify for Medicaid.

Since the March 24, 2015 eligibility determination properly stated that, based on the information you provided, you and your spouse were eligible for an APTC of up to \$446.00 per month, eligible for cost-sharing reductions, and not eligible for Medicaid, it is correct and is AFFIRMED.

Decision

The March 24, 2015 eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: July 10, 2015

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

The March 24, 2015 eligibility determination is correct, so it remains in effect.

You are eligible for an advance premium tax credit of up to \$446.00 per month and cost-sharing reductions, if enrolled in a silver-level plan.

If You Disagree with this Decision (Appeal Rights)

This Decision is final unless you submit an appeal request to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or bring a lawsuit under New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, Article 78.

You may bring a lawsuit on any Appeals Unit decision in New York State court in accordance with Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules. This must be done within four months after the date of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision.

If you need this information in a language other than English or you need assistance reading this notice, we can help you. Call 1-855-355-5777 (TTY - English: 1-800-662-1220) (TTY – Spanish: 1-877-662-4886).

Additionally, Appeals Unit decisions on issues involving eligibility for qualified health plans, advance premium tax credits, and cost-sharing reductions may be appealed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This must be done within 30 days of the date of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision (45 CFR § 155.520(c))

If you wish to be represented by an attorney in bringing an outside appeal and do not know how to go about getting one, you may contact legal resources available to you. You may, for example, contact the local County Bar Association, Legal Aid, or Legal Services.

If You Have Questions about this Decision (Customer Service Resources):

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-855-355-5777
- By mail at:
NY State of Health Appeals
P.O. Box 11729
Albany, NY 12211
- By fax: 1-855-900-5557

Summary

The March 24, 2015 eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

You are eligible for an advance premium tax credit of up to \$446.00 per month and cost-sharing reductions, if enrolled in a silver-level plan.

You are not eligible for Medicaid.

Legal Authority

We are sending you this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 45 CFR § 155.545(a).

A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]