



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

### Notice of Decision

Date of Decision: August 09, 2016

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000007492

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On August 3, 2016, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health’s March 1, 2016 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 and the NY State of Health Account ID at the top of this notice.

### Legal Authority

We are sending you this notice in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 155.545.

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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## Decision

Decision Date: August 09, 2016

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000007492



## Issues

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

Did NY State of Health properly determine that you were not eligible for advance premium tax credits, effective April 1, 2016?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that you were not eligible for cost-sharing reductions, effective April 1, 2016?

## Procedural History

On February 29, 2016, you updated your application for health insurance. That same day, a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared with regard to the application, stating that you were not eligible to receive help paying for your health insurance coverage. However, you were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan through the Marketplace at full cost, effective April 1, 2016.

Also on February 29, 2016 you contacted NYSOH's Account Review Unit and requested an appeal of that preliminary eligibility determination as it related to the amount of financial assistance you were eligible for.

On March 1, 2016, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice based on the information contained in the February 29, 2016 application, stating that you were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost through NYSOH. You were ineligible to receive an advance premium tax credit, Medicaid, the Essential Plan or cost-sharing reductions because your income was over the allowable limits for those programs. This eligibility was effective as of April 1, 2016.

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On August 3, 2016, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and closed at the end of the hearing.

## **Findings of Fact**

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

- 1) You testified that you expect to file your 2016 taxes with a tax filing status of single. You will claim no dependents on that tax return.
- 2) You are seeking insurance for yourself.
- 3) The application that was submitted on February 29, 2016 listed annual household income of \$49,612.64, consisting of salary you earn from your employment and freelance writing. You testified that this amount was correct.
- 4) Your application states and you confirmed that you will not be taking any deductions on your 2016 tax return.
- 5) Your application states and you confirmed that you live in New York County.

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

## **Applicable Law and Regulations**

### Advance Payments of Premium Tax Credit

Advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC) are generally 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 applicable 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 2016 is set by federal law at 2.03% to 9.66% of household income (26 USC § 36B(b)(3)(A), 26 CFR § 1.36B-3T(g)(1), IRS Rev. Proc. 2014-37, IRS Rev. Proc. 2014-62).

In an analysis of APTC eligibility, the determination is based on the FPL for the first day of the open enrollment period of the benefit year for which coverage is requested (45 CFR §§ 155.300(a), 155.305(f)(1)(i)). On the date of your application, that was the 2015 FPL, which was \$ 11,770.00 for a one-person household (80 Federal Register 3236, 3237).

### Cost-Sharing Reductions

Cost-sharing reductions (CSR) are available to a person who (1) is eligible to enroll in a QHP through NYSOH, (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 first day of the open enrollment period of the benefit year for which coverage is requested, and (4) is enrolled in a silver-level QHP (45 CFR § 155.300(a), 45 CFR § 155.305(g)(1)).

## **Legal Analysis**

The first issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were not eligible for an advance premium tax credit.

You testified that your income of \$49,612.64 listed on the application submitted on February 29, 2016 was correct and the eligibility determination relied upon that information.

You are in a one-person household. You expect to file your 2016 income taxes as single and will claim no dependents on that tax return.

You reside in New York County, where the second lowest cost silver plan available for an individual through NYSOH costs \$368.26 per month.

An annual income of \$49,612.64 is 421.51% of the 2015 FPL for a one-person household. In order to be eligible for an advance premium tax credit, a person cannot have a household income greater than 400.00% of the FPL. Since your annual household income of \$49,612.64 is greater than 400.00% of the FPL, NYSOH correctly found you not eligible for advance premium tax credits.

The second issue is whether you were properly found ineligible for cost-sharing reductions. Cost-sharing reductions are available to a person who is eligible for advance premium tax credits and has a household income no greater than 250% of the FPL. Since you are not eligible for advance premium tax credits and have a household income of \$49,612.64 is 421.51% of the applicable FPL, NYSOH correctly found you ineligible for cost sharing reductions.

Since the March 1, 2016 eligibility determination properly stated that, based on the information you provided, you were not eligible for an advance premium tax credit and not eligible for cost sharing reductions, it is correct and is AFFIRMED.

## **Decision**

The March 1, 2016 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

**Effective Date of this Decision:** August 09, 2016

## **How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility**

You were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost effective April 1, 2016.

You were not eligible for advance premium tax credits or cost sharing reductions.

## **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

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must be done within four months of the Decision Date, which appears on the first page of this Decision.

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 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 1, 2016 eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

You were eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost, effective April 1, 2016.

You were not eligible for advance premium tax credits or cost sharing reductions.

### **Legal Authority**

We are sending you this notice in accordance with 45 CFR § 155.545.

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**A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:**

