



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

## Notice of Decision

Decision Date: September 14, 2016

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000007894

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On September 7, 2016 you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's March 14, 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: September 14, 2016

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]  
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000007894



## 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 eligible to receive up to \$230.00 per month in advance payments of the premium tax credit, effective April 1, 2016?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that you were eligible for cost-sharing reductions?

## Procedural History

On March 14, 2016, NY State of Health (NYSOH) received your completed application for health insurance. That day, a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared with regard to the application, stating that you were eligible for advanced premium tax credits in the amount of \$230.00 and cost sharing reductions.

Also on March 14, 2016, you contacted NYSOH's Account Review Unit and requested an appeal of that preliminary eligibility determination as it related to your request for an increase in the amount of advanced premium tax credits and cost sharing reductions.

On March 15, 2016, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice based on the information contained in the March 14, 2016 application, stating that you were eligible for advanced premium tax credits in the amount of \$230.00 and cost sharing reductions.

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On September 7, 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) The application that you submitted on March 14, 2016 stated that you will be filing your 2016 taxes with a tax filing status of single. The application does not list any dependents.
- 2) You testified that you expect to file your 2016 taxes with a tax filing status of single but that you claimed two dependents on your 2015 tax return and will claim two dependents on your 2016 return.
- 3) You are seeking insurance for yourself.
- 4) The application that was submitted on March 14, 2016 listed annual household income of \$26,000.00, consisting of \$26,000.00 you earn from your employment. You testified that this amount was correct.
- 5) Your application states that you will not be taking any deductions on your 2016 tax return.
- 6) Your application states that you live in Nassau 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)).

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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 is \$11,770.00 for a one-person household (80 Federal Register 3236, 3237).

For annual household income in the range of at least 200% but less than 250 % of the 2015 FPL, the expected contribution is between 6.41% and 8.18% of the household income (26 CFR § 1.36B-3T(g)(1), 45 CFR § 155.300(a), IRS Rev. Proc. 2014-37, IRS Rev. Proc. 2014-62).

People who use the APTC to help pay health insurance premiums must file a federal tax return and reconcile their expected income (stated on NYSOH application) with their actual income (stated on their federal income tax return). 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 or have their tax bill reduced. 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 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)).

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## Legal Analysis

The first issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were eligible for an APTC of up to \$230.00 per month.

The application that was submitted on March 14, 2016 listed an annual household income of \$26,000.00. Additionally, the application that was submitted on March 14, 2016 stated that you expect to file your 2016 income 2016 taxes as single and will claim no dependents on your tax. Therefore, you were in a household of one person according to the information contained in your application and eligibility determination relied upon that information.

You reside in Nassau County, where the second lowest cost silver plan available for an individual through NYSOH costs \$385.23 per month.

An annual income of \$26,000.00 is 220.9% of the 2015 FPL for a one-person household. At 220.9% of the FPL, the expected contribution to the cost of the health insurance premium is 7.15% of income, or \$154.92 per month.

The maximum amount of APTC that can be approved equals the cost of the second lowest cost silver plan available through NYSOH for an individual in your county (\$385.23 per month) minus your expected contribution (\$154.92 per month), which equals \$230.31 per month. Therefore, rounding to the nearest dollar, NYSOH correctly determined you to be eligible for up to \$230.00 per month in APTC.

The second issue is whether you were properly found 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 \$26,000.00 is 220.9% of the applicable FPL, NYSOH correctly found you to be eligible for cost sharing reductions.

Since the March 14, 2016 eligibility determination properly stated that, based on the information you provided, you were eligible for up to \$230.00 per month in APTC and eligible for cost-sharing reductions, it is correct and is AFFIRMED.

During the hearing, you testified that you claimed your two children on your 2015 income tax return and are going to claim your two children as dependents on your 2016 income tax return. Your application, as it is now, contains no information about your children. You must update your application with their information if you want them to be considered as part of your household size for purposes of determining your eligibility for financial assistance. You can do this by accessing your account online or by contacting NYSOH at the phone numbers listed below.

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).

## **Decision**

The March 15, 2016 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

**Effective Date of this Decision:** September 14, 2016

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

You remain eligible for up to \$230.00 in APTC.

You are eligible for cost-sharing reductions.

You must update your application with your dependents information if you want them to be considered as part of your household size for purposes of determining your eligibility for financial assistance. You can do this by accessing your account online or by contacting NYSOH at the phone numbers listed below.

## **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 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.

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## **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 15, 2016 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

You remain eligible for up to \$230.00 in APTC.

You are eligible for cost-sharing reductions.

You must update your application with your dependents information if you want them to be considered as part of your household size for purposes of determining your eligibility for financial assistance. You can do this by accessing your account online or by contacting NYSOH at the phone numbers listed below.

## **Legal Authority**

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



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

