



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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: June 27, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000016287

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On June 6, 2017, your spouse, [REDACTED], appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's February 28, 2017 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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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Decision

Decision Date: June 27, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000016287

[REDACTED]

Issues

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

Did NY State of Health (NYSOH) properly determine that you were eligible to receive up to \$227.00 per month in advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC), effective April 1, 2017?

Did NYSOH properly determine that you were eligible for cost-sharing reductions?

Did NYSOH properly determine that you were not eligible for the Essential Plan?

Did NYSOH properly determine that you were not eligible for Medicaid?

Procedural History

On November 7, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice stating that you and your child had Medicaid coverage through NYC Human Resources Administration, and that this coverage would be ending on February 28, 2017. The notice further stated that you needed to log into your NYSOH account between January 16, 2017 and February 15, 2017 to complete the renewal process through NYSOH, or you and child would not have health insurance after your Medicaid ended.

On February 27, 2017, an application for health insurance was filed on behalf of you and your child. That day, a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared stating that you were eligible to receive up to \$227.00 per month in APTC, and

eligible to receive cost-sharing reductions if you enrolled in a silver level qualified health plan (QHP), effective April 1, 2017.

Also on February 27, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the preliminary eligibility determination, insofar as you were not found eligible for a higher level of financial assistance.

On February 28, 2017 NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination, based on the February 27, 2017 application, stating that you were eligible to receive up to \$227.00 per month in APTC, and eligible to receive cost-sharing reductions if you enrolled in a silver level QHP, effective April 1, 2017. That notice also stated that you were not eligible for Medicaid or the Essential Plan because your household income was over the allowable income limits for those programs.

On June 6, 2017, your spouse had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and held open through June 21, 2017 to provide your spouse with the opportunity to submit income documentation for the month of February 2017.

On June 20, 2017, your spouse faxed supporting documentation to the Appeals Unit. The record is now closed.

Findings of Fact

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

- 1) Your spouse testified that you expect to file your 2017 taxes with a tax filing status of married filing jointly. You will claim one dependent on that tax return.
- 2) You are appealing your eligibility only.
- 3) The application that was submitted on February 27, 2017 listed annual household income of \$41,464.00, consisting of income that your spouse earns from employment. Your spouse testified that he believed this information was correct.
- 4) Your spouse testified that you do not have any income, and have not worked at all in the last couple of years.
- 5) After the hearing, your spouse provided four weekly paystubs from February 2017 with the following pay dates and gross pay amounts:
 - a. 2/2/17 - \$1,057.69;
 - b. 2/9/17 - \$1,057.69;

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- c. 2/16/17 - \$1,057.69;
- d. 2/23/17 - \$1,057.69.

These documents are collectively marked and entered in to the record as “Appellant’s Exhibit One.”

- 6) Your application states that you will not be taking any deductions on your 2017 tax return.
- 7) Your application states that you live in Queens County.
- 8) Your spouse testified that you filed this appeal to try to get back into the coverage you had through Human Resources Administration when you were pregnant.
- 9) Your spouse testified that you do not understand why you are no longer eligible for that coverage, as your household income has not changed.
- 10) Your spouse testified that even the cheapest plans are not affordable for your family, due to the expenses that you have for rent, food, and caring for your child.

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

APTC are generally available to a person who is eligible to enroll in a 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 2017 is set by federal law at 2.04% to 9.69% of household income (26 USC § 36B(b)(3)(A), 26 CFR § 1.36B-3T(g)(1), IRS Rev. Proc.2016-24).

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 2016 FPL, which is \$20,160.00 for a three-person household (81 Federal Register 4036).

For annual household income in the range of at least 200% but less than 250% of the 2016 FPL, the expected contribution is between 6.43% and 8.21% of the household income (26 CFR § 1.36B-3T(g)(1), 45 CFR § 155.300(a), IRS Rev. Proc. 2016-24).

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)).

Essential Plan

NYSOH must generally determine an applicant eligible for the Essential Plan, a basic health plan, if the person is (1) a resident of New York State, (2) expects to have a household income between 138% and 200% of the applicable FPL or, in the case of an individual who is a lawfully present non-citizen who is ineligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus as a result of their immigration status, has a household income that is between 0% and 200% of the FPL, (3) is not otherwise eligible for minimum essential coverage except through the individual market, (4)

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is 64 years old or younger, (5) is a citizen or a lawfully present non-citizen, and (6) is not incarcerated (see 42 CFR § 600.305, 42 CFR § 435.603(d)(4), 45 CFR § 155.305(e), NY Social Services Law § 369-gg(3), 42 USC § 18051).

In an analysis of Essential Plan eligibility, the determination is based on the FPL in effect on the first day of the benefit year for which coverage is requested (45 CFR § 155.300(a)). On the date of your application, that was the 2016 FPL, which is \$20,160.00 for a three-person household (81 Fed. Reg. 4036).

Medicaid

Medicaid can be provided through NYSOH 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)), NY Social Services 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 2017 FPL, which is \$20,420.00 for a three-person household (82 Fed. Reg. 8831).

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).

FPL for Pregnant Women

Medicaid is currently available to pregnant women who have a modified adjusted gross income at or below 223% of the FPL for the applicable family size (see 42 CFR § 435.116(c); NY Department of Health Administrative Directive 13ADM-03).

Modified Adjusted Gross Income

NYSOH bases its eligibility determinations on modified adjusted gross income as defined in the federal tax code (45 CFR § 155.300(a)). The term “modified adjusted gross income” means adjusted gross income increased by (1) any income that was excluded under 26 USC § 911 for United States citizens or residents living abroad, (2) tax-exempt interest received or accrued, and (3) Social Security benefits that were excluded from gross income under 26 USC § 86 (see 26 USC § 36B(d)(2)(B), 26 CFR § 1.36B-1(e)(2)).

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“Adjusted gross income” means, in the case of an individual taxpayer, gross federal taxable income minus certain specific deductions, such as expenses reimbursed by an employer, losses from sale or exchange of property, losses from premature withdrawal of funds from time savings accounts, deductions attributable to royalties, and certain retirement savings (26 USC § 62(a)). Living expenses, such as rent and utilities are not an allowable deduction in computing adjusted gross income.

Legal Analysis

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were eligible for APTC of up to \$227.00 per month.

The application that was submitted on February 27, 2017 listed an annual household income of \$41,464.00, and the eligibility determination relied upon that information. During the hearing, your spouse testified that, even if your income is above the limit for more financial assistance, you have many expenses for your household such as food, rent, and the expense of caring for your young child.

Since the Internal Revenue Service rules do not allow living expenses such as rent, utilities, cable and phone to be deducted from the calculation of your adjusted gross income, they cannot be deducted when the NYSOH computes your modified adjusted gross income for APTC purposes. Therefore, NYSOH correctly determined your household income to be \$41,464.00, based on the information in her application.

You are in a three-person household. You and your spouse expect to file your 2017 income taxes as married filing jointly and will claim one dependent on that tax return.

You reside in Queens County, where the second lowest cost silver plan available for an individual through NYSOH costs \$456.46 per month.

An annual income of \$41,464.00 is 205.67% of the 2016 FPL for a three-person household. At 205.67% of the FPL, the expected contribution to the cost of the health insurance premium is 6.63% of income, or \$229.09 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 (\$456.46 per month) minus your expected contribution (\$229.09 per month), which equals \$227.37 per month. Therefore, rounding to the nearest dollar, NYSOH correctly determined you to be eligible for up to \$227.00 per month in APTC, based on the income stated in your February 27, 2017 application.

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The second issue under review 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 \$41,464.00 is 205.67% of the applicable FPL, NYSOH correctly found you to be eligible for cost sharing reductions, based on the information in your application.

The third issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were not eligible for the Essential Plan, as of your February 27, 2017 application.

The Essential Plan is provided through NYSOH to individuals who meet the non-financial requirements and have a household modified adjusted gross income that is between 138% and 200% of the FPL for the applicable family size. On the date of your application, the relevant FPL was \$20,160.00 for a three-person household. Since an annual household income of \$41,464.00 is 205.67% of the 2016 FPL, NYSOH properly found you to be ineligible for the Essential Plan.

The fourth issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were ineligible for Medicaid.

Medicaid can be provided through NYSOH to adults between the ages of 19 and 65 who meet the non-financial requirements and have a household modified adjusted gross income that is at or below 138% of the FPL for the applicable family size. On the date of your application, the relevant FPL was \$20,420.00 for a three-person household. Since \$41,464.00 is 203.06% of the 2017 FPL, NYSOH properly found you to be ineligible for Medicaid on an expected annual income basis, using the information provided in your February 27, 2017 application.

However, financial eligibility for Medicaid for applicants who are not currently receiving Medicaid benefits is based on current monthly household income and family size.

Your spouse submitted four paystubs that show that your gross monthly household income for the month of February 2017 was \$4,230.76.

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 \$2,348.76 per month. Since the documentation your spouse provided shows that your household income was \$4,230.76 in February 2017, you do not qualify for Medicaid on the basis of monthly income, as of the date of your application.

Your spouse testified that you do not understand why you were eligible for Medicaid previously, and are not now, when your household income has not changed. Women who are pregnant have a higher income limit for Medicaid

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coverage. The income limit for a pregnant woman is 223% of the FPL. Therefore, when you were pregnant, your eligibility for Medicaid was determined using a higher income limit.

Since the February 28, 2017 eligibility determination properly stated that, based on the information provided in the application, you were eligible for up to \$227.00 per month in APTC, eligible for cost-sharing reductions, ineligible for the Essential Plan, and ineligible for Medicaid, it is correct and is AFFIRMED.

Decision

The February 28, 2017 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: June 27, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

You remain eligible for up to \$227.00 in APTC, based on the information provided in the February 27, 2017 application.

You are eligible for cost-sharing reductions, based on the information provided in the February 27, 2017 application.

You were ineligible for the Essential Plan, as of your February 27, 2017 application.

You are ineligible for Medicaid, based on the information provided in the February 27, 2017 application, and the documentation provided after the hearing.

If You Disagree with this Decision (Appeal Rights)

This Decision is final unless you submit an appeal request to the Federal Marketplace 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

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appealed to the Federal Marketplace. 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 have questions about appealing to the Federal Marketplace, you can contact them in any of the following ways:

- By calling the Customer Service Center at 1-800-318-2596
- By mail at:
Health Insurance Marketplace
Attn: Appeals
465 Industrial Blvd.
London, KY 40750-0061
- By fax: 1-877-369-0129

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 February 28, 2017 eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

You remain eligible for up to \$227.00 in APTC, based on the information provided in the February 27, 2017 application.

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You are eligible for cost-sharing reductions, based on the information provided in the February 27, 2017 application.

You were ineligible for the Essential Plan, as of your February 27, 2017 application.

You are ineligible for Medicaid, based on the information provided in the February 27, 2017 application, and the documentation provided after the hearing.

Legal Authority

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

A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:



Getting Help in a Language Other than English

This is an important document. If you need help to understand it, please call 1-855-355-5777. We can give you an interpreter for free in the language you speak.

Español (Spanish)

Este es un documento importante. Si necesita ayuda para entenderlo, llame al 1-855-355-5777. Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin ningún costo.

中文 (Traditional Chinese)

這是重要的文件。如果您需要獲得關於瞭解文件內容方面的協助，請致電 1-855-355-5777。我們可以為您免費提供您所使用語言的翻譯人員。

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

Sa a se yon dokiman ki enpòtan. Si ou bezwen èd pou konprann li, tanpri rele nimewo 1-855-355-5777. Nou kapab ba ou yon entèprèt gratis nan lang ou pale a.

中文 (Simplified Chinese)

这是一份重要的文件。如果您需要帮助理解此文件，请打电话至 1-855-355-5777。我们可以为您提供相应语种的口译服务。

Italiano (Italian)

Questo è un documento importante. Per qualsiasi chiarimento può chiamare il numero 1-855-355-5777. Possiamo metterle a disposizione un interprete nella sua lingua.

한국어 (Korean)

중요한 서류입니다. 이해하는 데 도움이 필요하시면 1-855-355-5777 번으로 연락해 주십시오. 귀하의 언어에 대한 무료 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Русский (Russian)

Это важный документ. Если Вам нужна помощь для понимания этого документа, позвоните по телефону 1-855-355-5777. Мы можем бесплатно предоставить Вам переводчика Вашего языка.

العربية (Arabic)

هذه وثيقة مهمة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة لفهم محتواها، يُرجى الاتصال بالرقم 1-855-355-5777. يُمكننا توفير مترجم فوري لك باللغة التي تتحدثها مجاناً.

বাংলা (Bengali)

এটি এক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নথি। এটি বুঝতে আপনার যদি সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তাহলে, অনুগ্রহ করে 1-855-355-5777 নম্বরে কল করুন। আপনি যে ভাষায় কথা বলেন বিনামূল্যে আমরা আপনাকে একজন দোভাষী দিতে পারি।

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Français (French)

Ceci est un document important. Si vous avez besoin d'aide pour en comprendre le contenu, appelez le 1-855-355-5777. Nous pouvons mettre gratuitement à votre disposition un interprète dans votre langue.

हिंदी (Hindi)

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण दस्तावेज़ है। अगर आपको इसे समझने में सहायता चाहिए, तो कृपया 1-855-355-5777 पर कॉल करें। हम आपकी भाषा बोलने वाला एक दुभाषिया निःशुल्क उपलब्ध करवा सकते हैं।

日本語 (Japanese)

これは重要な書類です。理解するために支援が必要な場合は、1-855-355-5777 にお電話ください。通訳を無料で提供いたします。

नेपाली (Nepali)

यो एउटा महत्वपूर्ण कागजात हो। यसलाई बुझ्न तपाईंलाई मद्दत चाहिन्छ भने, कृपया 1-855-355-5777 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्। हामीले तपाईंले बोल्ने भाषामा तपाईंलाई निःशुल्क दोभाषे उपलब्ध गराउन सक्छौं।

Polski (Polish)

To jest ważny dokument. W przypadku konieczności skorzystania z pomocy w celu zrozumienia jego treści należy zadzwonić pod numer 1-855-355-5777. Istnieje możliwość uzyskania bezpłatnej usługi tłumacza języka, którym się posługujesz.

Twi (Twi)

Krataa yi ye tow krataa a ho hia. Se wo hia eho nkyerekyeremu a, ye sre wo, fre 1-855-355-5777. ye&etumi ama wo obi a okyerE kasa a woka no ase ama wo kwa a wontua hwee.

(Urdu) اردو

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اسے سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم 1-855-355-5777 پر کال کریں۔ ہم آپ کو آپ کی مادری زبان میں ایک مفت مترجم فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

Đây là tài liệu quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp để hiểu tài liệu này, vui lòng gọi 1-855-355-5777. Chúng tôi có thể cung cấp thông dịch viên miễn phí nói ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

אידיש (Yiddish)

דאס איז א וויכטיגער דאקומענט. אויב איר דארפט הילף עס צו פארשטיין, ביטע רופט 1-855-355-5777. מיר קענען אייך געבן א דאלמעטשער פריי פון אפצאל אין די שפראך וואס איר רעדט.

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