



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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: July 26, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000017046

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

On June 26, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's March 16, 2017 eligibility determination notice, the March 21, 2017 eligibility determination notice and the March 21, 2017 enrollment confirmation notice.

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.

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Decision Date: July 26, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000017046

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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 your eligibility for the Essential Plan ended effective March 31, 2017?

Did NYSOH properly determine that your eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017?

Procedural History

On December 9, 2016, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that you were eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective January 1, 2017. The notice further directed you to provide documentation confirming your income before March 8, 2017.

On December 15, 2016 NYSOH issued a notice confirming your enrollment in an Essential Plan, effective January 1, 2017.

On March 16, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were newly eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost. The notice stated that you were not eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan because NYSOH did not receive the income documentation needed to verify the income listed in your application. This eligibility was effective April 1, 2017.

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Also on March 16, 2017, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating that your enrollment in the Essential Plan would end as of March 31, 2017, because you were no longer eligible to remain in your plan.

On March 20, 2017, you updated your application for financial assistance. That day, a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared stating that you were eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan for a limited time and you selected a plan for enrollment.

Also on March 20, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the termination of your Essential Plan for the month of April 2017.

On March 21, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination, based on your March 20, 2017 application, stating that you were eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective May 1, 2017. The notice further directed you to provide documentation confirming your income before June 18, 2017.

Also on March 21, 2017, NYSOH issue a notice of enrollment confirmation, based on your plan selection on March 20, 2017, stating that you were enrolled in an Essential Plan effective May 1, 2017.

On March 28, 2017, you submitted documentation to NYSOH.

On June 26, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and the Hearing Officer reviewed two phone recordings. The record was then closed.

Findings of Fact

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

- 1) You testified that you received the December 9, 2016 eligibility notice stating that your Essential Plan eligibility was only conditional and that you needed to provide documentation of your household's income.
- 2) You testified that you faxed income documentation about a week after your December 8, 2017 application, and that a NYSOH representative advised you in December 2016 that your documentation had been received. You testified that you did not save the fax confirmation.
- 3) You placed a phone call to NYSOH on December 14, 2016. During that call, the NYSOH representative advised you that you were required to submit proof of income. During this call, you were advised

to submit your Social Security award letter, and the NYSOH representative provided you with a fax number.

- 4) You placed a call to NYSOH on December 15, 2016. During that call, you confirmed with the NYSOH representative that you needed to submit your Social Security award letter, and the representative provided the fax number and applicable deadlines.
- 5) There is no evidence in the record that you submitted income documentation prior to the March 8, 2017 deadline.
- 6) Your NYSOH account indicates that on March 15, 2017 your application was run and you were found no longer eligible for the Essential Plan as of March 31, 2017,
- 7) You submitted income documentation to NYSOH on March 28, 2017.
- 8) You testified that you are seeking enrollment in your Essential Plan as of April 1, 2017,

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

Applicable Law and Regulations

Verification of Eligibility for the 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 federal poverty level (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) 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).

NYSOH must verify the eligibility of an applicant for the Essential Plan consistent with the standards set in 45 CFR § 155.315 and § 155.320 (New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, pgs. 16-17, as approved January 2016; see <https://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/basic-health-program.html>; 42 CFR § 600.345(a)(2)).

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An applicant is required to attest to their household's projected annual income. (45 CFR § 155.320(c)(3)(ii)(B)). For all individuals whose household income is needed, NYSOH must request tax return data from the Secretary of the Treasury and data regarding Social Security benefits from the Commissioner of Social Security in order to confirm that the information the applicant is attesting to is accurate (45 CFR § 155.320(c)(1)(i); 45 CFR § 155.320(c)(3)(ii)(A)).

If income data is unavailable, or if an applicant's attestation is not reasonably compatible with the income data NYSOH obtains, NYSOH must request additional information from the applicant in order to resolve the inconsistency (45 CFR § 155.320 (c)(3)(iii), (iv)).

NYSOH must provide the applicant with notice of the inconsistency in their account and 90 days to provide satisfactory documentary evidence to resolve the inconsistency (45 CFR § 155.315 (f)(2)). If NYSOH remains unable to verify the attestation of the applicant, NYSOH must redetermine the applicant's eligibility based on the information available from the data sources unless the applicant demonstrates that they are unable to provide the required documentation (45 CFR § 155.315(f)(2), (g)).

Upon making an eligibility redetermination, NYSOH must notify the applicant and implement any updates in eligibility to the Essential Plan effective the first day of the following month for changes received by NYSOH from the first to the fifteenth of any month (45 CFR § 155.420(b)(1)(i); *see also* 42 CFR § 600.320(c)). For updates received by NYSOH from the sixteenth to the last day of any month, NYSOH must ensure coverage is effective the first day of the second following month (45 CFR § 155.420(b)(1)(ii); *see also* 42 CFR § 600.320(c)).

Legal Analysis

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your eligibility for the Essential Plan ended effective March 31, 2017.

An individual requesting financial assistance to help pay for the cost of coverage provided through NYSOH is required to attest to his or her household's projected annual income. For individuals seeking enrollment in the Essential Plan, NYSOH must request income data from federal data sources in order to verify an individual's income attestation.

If NYSOH cannot verify an individual's attestation, it must provide the individual with notice of the inconsistency and provide a period of 90 days from the date notice is received to resolve the inconsistency.

In the eligibility determination issued on December 9, 2016, you were advised that you were eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time, and that you needed to confirm your household's income before March 8, 2017.

You testified that you received the notice from NYSOH telling you that you needed to provide income documentation to confirm your eligibility. You testified that you faxed your income documentation to NYSOH about a week after you received the notice. However, you did not save the fax confirmation and NYSOH has no record of receiving the documentation. Furthermore, you testified that a NYSOH representative advised you in December 2016 that your documentation had been received and that you were all set. A review of the telephone recordings from December 2016 does not support that testimony.

If NYSOH remains unable to verify the attestation of the applicant, NYSOH must redetermine an individual's eligibility based on the information available from the data sources unless the applicant demonstrates that they are unable to provide the required documentation.

Accordingly, your eligibility for the Essential Plan terminated as of March 31, 2017 because there is no evidence in the record to show that you submitted documentation before the March 8, 2017 deadline and you did not adequately demonstrate that you could not provide documentation to confirm your income.

Therefore, the March 16, 2017 notice of eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

The second issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that your eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017.

You testified, and your account confirms, that you updated your NYSOH application on March 20, 2017. That day you selected an Essential Plan for enrollment.

The date on which enrollment in an Essential Plan can take effect depends on the day a person selects the plan for enrollment.

A plan that is selected from the first day to and including the fifteenth day of a month goes into effect on the first day of the following month. A plan that is selected from the sixteenth day of the month to the end of the month goes into effect on the first day of the second following month.

Since on March 20, 2017, you selected an Essential Plan, your enrollment would properly take effect on the first day of the second month following March 20, 2017; that is, on May 1, 2017.

Therefore, the March 21, 2017 eligibility determination notice, and the March 21, 2017 enrollment confirmation notice stating that your enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017, is correct and must be AFFIRMED.

Decision

The March 16, 2017 notice of eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

The March 21, 2017 notice of eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

The March 21, 2017 notice of enrollment is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: July 26, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

NYSOH properly found you not eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan effective March 31, 2017 because you did not provide documentation of your household's income.

NYSOH properly found that your reenrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017.

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 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:

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).

- 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 March 16, 2017 notice of eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

NYSOH properly found you not eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan effective March 31, 2017 because you did not provide documentation of your household's income.

The March 21, 2017 notice of eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

The March 21, 2017 notice of enrollment is AFFIRMED.

NYSOH properly found that your reenrollment in the Essential Plan was effective May 1, 2017.

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).

Legal Authority

We are issuing this determination 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。我们可以为您免费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)

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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. y&b&tumi 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.

שׂוֹדִישׁ (Yiddish)

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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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