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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: October 25, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [redacted]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000021156

[redacted]

Dear [redacted],

On October 13, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's August 3, 2017 eligibility determination 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.

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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STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Albany, NY 12211

Decision

Decision Date: October 25, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [redacted]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000021156

[redacted]

Issue

The issue presented for review by the Appeals Unit of NY State of Health is:

> Did NY State of Health (NYSOH) properly determine that you were eligible to receive up to $266.00 per month in advance payments of the premium tax credit(APTC), eligible for cost-sharing reductions, and not eligible for the Essential Plan, effective September 1, 2017?

Procedural History

According to your NYSOH account, at the request of NYSOH, on August 1, 2017, you submitted four current consecutive weekly paystubs dated July 7, 2017 through July 28, 2017 (*see* Documents [redacted]

On August 3, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible to receive up to $266.00 in APTC and eligible to receive cost-sharing reductions if you enrolled in a silver-level qualified health plan, effective September 1, 2017. The notice also stated that you were not eligible for the Essential Plan because your income was over the allowable income limit for that program.

Also on August 3, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the eligibility determination notice insofar as it did not find you eligible for the Essential Plan.

On October 13, 2017, 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) According to your NYSOH account and your testimony, you expect to file your 2017 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 August 2, 2017, listed annual household income of $28,600.00, in earnings from your employment. You testified that this is correct, but did not include an adjustment for your 401K deduction, which you felt should be considered when determining your eligibility.

4) On August 1, 2017, you submitted four current consecutive weekly paystubs dated July 7, 2017 through July 28, 2017. These paystubs show that in 2017 you expect to receive $16,553.16 in federal taxable gross income (FTGI), calculated as follows:

   Year-To-Date (YTD) income as of July 28, 2017: $16,500.00
   Less YTD non-taxable federal deductions: ($ 6,950.00)
   Total FTGI as of 7/28/17: $ 9,550.00

   Divided by 30 pay periods (1/1/17 through 7/28/17): $9,550.00/30
   Gross weekly average income: $ 318.33

   Multiplied by 52 pay periods in 2017: $ 313.33 x 52
   Total FTGI expected in 2017: $16,553.16

   (*see* Documents [redacted] .

5) According to your NYSOH account and your testimony, you will not be taking any deductions on your 2017 tax return.

6) According to your NYSOH account and your testimony, you live in [redacted], New York.

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

Applicable Law and Regulations

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 federal taxable 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)).

"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 finds 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.

Retirement Savings

"Adjusted gross income" is the gross income of the taxpayer minus the deductions permitted (26 USC § 62). Subject to some limitations, deductions that are attributable to retirement savings may be deductions from a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (26 USC § 62 (a)(7)).

Advance Payments of Premium Tax Credit

Advance payments of the premium tax credit are generally available to a person who is eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan 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 $11,880.00 for a one-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).

Cost-Sharing Reductions

Cost-sharing reductions 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 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).

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 $11,880.00 for a one-person household (81 Fed. Reg. 4036).

The Essential Plan is considered minimum essential coverage therefore, a person who is eligible for the Essential Plan is not eligible for any premium tax credit because they are eligible for minimum essential coverage through the individual market (*see* 26 CFR § 1.36B-2(c)(1), 26 USC § 5000A(f)(1)(C)).

Legal Analysis

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were eligible for an APTC of up to $266.00 per month, eligible for CSR, and not eligible for the Essential Plan, effective September 1, 2017.

You expect to file your 2017 income taxes as single and will claim no dependents on that tax return. Therefore, for purposes of these analyses, you are in a one-person household.

According to your NYSOH account, and your testimony, you live in [redacted], New York.

The application that was submitted on August 2, 2017 listed annual household income of $28,600.00, consisting of $28,600.00 you earn from your employment. During the hearing, you testified that this is correct but did not include an adjustment for your 401K deduction which should be considered when determining your eligibility.

Because the Internal Revenue Service rules do allow non-taxable expenses, such as your 401k deductions, to be excluded from your income in determining your modified adjusted gross income, it can be excluded from your income in determining your modified adjusted gross income for purposes of determining your eligibility for financial assistance through NYSOH. Based on the calculations above, which exclude from your income your 401k deduction and is corroborated by the four-current consecutive weekly paystubs dated July 7, 2017 through July 28, 2017 you submitted, your 2017 expected FTGI is $16,553.16.

Since your current income documentation reflects your calculated 2017 expected FTGI is $16,553.16, the August 3, 2017 eligibility determination notice is not supported by the record and must be [redacted].

As such, your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to redetermine your eligibility for financial assistance with health insurance as of August 2, 2017 and to apply it effective September 1, 2017, using a one-person household with an expected annual income of $16,553.16, for an individual living in [redacted], New York.

Decision

The August 3, 2017 eligibility determination notice is RESCINDED.

Your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to redetermine your eligibility for financial assistance with health insurance as of August 2, 2017, and to apply it effective September 1, 2017, using a one-person household with an expected annual income of $16,553.16, for an individual living in [redacted], New York. NYSOH is further directed to notify you of its redetermination and what further action may be required on your part, if applicable.

Effective Date of this Decision: October 25, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

NYSOH improperly determined that you were eligible for APTC as of your August 2, 2017 application.

Your case is sent back to NYSOH to redetermine your eligibility for financial assistance with health insurance as of August 2, 2017, and to apply it effective September 1, 2017, as noted above.

At present, you have Essential Plan coverage as of September 1, 2017, as aid to continue during the appeal process. Your enrollment will not be disturbed until your eligibility is redetermined by NYSOH. NYSOH will notify you of its redetermination and what further action may be required on your part, if applicable.

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:

- 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 August 3, 2017 eligibility determination notice is RESCINDED.

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).

Your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to redetermine your eligibility for financial assistance with health insurance as of August 2, 2017, and to apply it effective September 1, 2017, using a one-person household with an expected annual income of $16,553.16, for an individual living in [redacted], New York. NYSOH is further directed to notify you of its redetermination and what further action may be required on your part, if applicable.

NYSOH improperly determined that you were eligible for APTC as of your August 2, 2017 application.

Your case is sent back to NYSOH to redetermine your eligibility for financial assistance with health insurance as of August 2, 2017, and to apply it effective September 1, 2017, as noted above.

At present, you have Essential Plan coverage as of September 1, 2017, as aid to continue during the appeal process. Your enrollment will not be disturbed until your eligibility is redetermined by NYSOH. NYSOH will notify you of its redetermination and what further action may be required on your part, if applicable.

Legal Authority

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

A Copy of this Decision Has Been Provided To:

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).

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 مجانًا.

বাংলা (Bengali)

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).

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।

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 महत्त्वपूर्ण 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 yɛ tow krataa a ho hia. Sɛ wo hia ɛho nkyerɛkyerɛmu a, yɛ srɛ wo, frɛ 1-855-355-5777. yƐbƐtumi ama wo obi a ɔkyerƐ kasa a woka no ase ama wo kwa a wontua hwee.

اردو (Urdu)

یہ ایک اہم دستاویز ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اسے سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم1-855-355-5777 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.

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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