

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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: November 20, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: Appeal Identification Number: AP000000022438



Dear

On November 7, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's September 7, 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.



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

Decision

Decision Date: November 20, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID:

Appeal Identification Number: AP000000022438



Issues

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

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your husband was eligible to receive up to \$72.00 per month in advance payments of the premium tax credit (APTC), effective September 1, 2017?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your husband was not eligible for cost-sharing reductions?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your husband was not eligible for the Essential Plan?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your husband was not eligible for Medicaid?

Procedural History

On April 26, 2017, you submitted an application for financial assistance.

On April 27, 2017, NY State of Health (NYSOH) issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you and your husband were eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time. The notice requested that you submit documentation of your and your spouse's income by July 25, 2017.

On June 10, 2017, NYSOH issued an enrollment confirmation notice stating that you and your spouse were enrolled into an Essential Plan, effective July 1, 2017.

On June 27, 2017, income documentation that you faxed to NYSOH was uploaded to your NYSOH account.

On June 29, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice stating that the documentation that was reviewed does not confirm the information in your application. You were asked to submit additional documentation of your and your spouse's income by July 25, 2017.

On July 7, 2017, income documentation that you faxed to NYSOH was uploaded to your NYSOH account.

On July 8, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice stating that the documentation that was reviewed does not confirm the information in your application. You were asked to submit additional documentation of your and your spouse's income by July 25, 2017.

On August 2, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you and your husband were newly eligible to purchase a qualified health plan at full cost. You and your husband were not eligible for the Essential Plan because NYSOH did not receive the income documentation needed to verify the income listed in your application.

Also on August 2, 2017, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating that you and your husband's Essential Plan coverage would end on August 31, 2017.

On August 18, 2017, you submitted an application for financial assistance.

On August 19, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that you were eligible for Medicaid coverage, effective August 1, 2017, but that additional information was required to confirm your eligibility for Medicaid coverage, and that you needed to provide proof of household income by September 2, 2017.

Also on August 19, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice stating more information was needed to make a determination for your husband's eligibility. The notice stated that the income information you provided NYSOH did not match what was obtained from state and federal data sources. You were asked to submit income documentation for everyone in your household by September 2, 2017.

On August 25, 2017, you uploaded income documentation to your NYSOH account.

On September 6, 2017, NYSOH reviewed the income documentation you submitted and determined it was sufficient to verify your household's income. NYSOH recalculated your household income based on this information, updated

the income in your household's application based on this recalculation, and then submitted an application on you and your family's behalf.

On September 7, 2017, NYSOH issued a notice of eligibility determination stating that you remained eligible for Medicaid, effective September 1, 2017. That notice also stated that your husband was eligible to receive up to \$72.00 in APTC per month to help pay for a qualified health plan. That notice further stated that your husband was not eligible to receive cost-sharing reductions, the Essential Plan or Medicaid because your income was over the allowable income limits for those programs.

On September 14, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed the eligibility determination insofar as your spouse was not found eligible for a more affordable program.

On November 7, 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) You testified that you and your spouse 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 submitted an application for your household over the phone on August 18, 2017.
- 3) The application that was submitted on August 18, 2017 reflects that you are pregnant and expecting to deliver . You testified this is correct.
- 4) On September 6, 2017, NYSOH verified the income documentation you had provided and submitted an application based on that documentation. That application stated that you have an annual household income of \$53,176.00 consisting of \$46,176.00 you expect to receive from your job and \$7,000.00 your spouse expects to receive in income. You testified these amounts were correct.
- 5) You are seeking financial assistance for your spouse.
- 6) You testified that your monthly income varies, but that you usually earn approximately \$2,500.00 per month.

- 7) You submitted a paystub dated August 21, 2017, for hours worked in the month of June 2017. The gross amount listed on that paystub is \$3,848.00.
- 8) You testified that your husband's monthly income varies because he is self-employed.
- 9) You provided documentation that shows that your husband's monthly income for August was \$0.00, after deducting business expenses.
- 10) You testified, and your application states, that you will not be taking any deductions on your 2017 tax return.
- 11)You and your husband live together with your son in Suffolk County.

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

Applicable Law and Regulations

Household Composition

For purposes of advance premium tax credit (APTC) and cost-sharing reductions (CSR), the household size equals the number of individuals for whom the taxpayer is allowed a deduction under 26 USC § 151 for the taxable year, which typically includes: (1) the taxpayer, (2) his or her spouse, and (3) any claimed dependents (26 USC § 36B(d)(1)).

For purposes of Medicaid eligibility, however, the household size of either a pregnant woman or a person who is in the family of a pregnant woman includes not only the pregnant woman, but also the number of children she expects to deliver (42 CFR § 435.603(b); State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-0055-MM3, as approved by the US Department of Health and Human Services, March 19, 2014).

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 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 250% but less than 300% of the 2016 FPL, the expected contribution is between 8.21% and 9.69% 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 federal poverty level (FPL) or, in the case of an individual who is a lawfully present noncitizen 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 \$20,160.00 for a three-person household (81 Fed. Reg. 4036).

A person who has a household income that is at or below 150% of the FPL has a \$0.00 premium contribution (New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, p. 21, as approved January 2016; see https://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program.html).

A person who has a household income greater than 150% of the FPL or below 200% of the FPL has a \$20.00 per month premium contribution (New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, as approved January 2016).

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)).

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)). A pregnant woman is

eligible for Medicaid at a household income of 223% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for the applicable family size (42 CFR §435.116 (c)(2); NY Department of Social Services Administrative Directive 13ADM-03).

"Family size" means the number of persons counted as members of an individual's household. The household of a taxpayer who expects to file a return, and does not expect to be claimed as a tax dependent by anyone else, consists of the taxpayer plus all people the taxpayer expects to claim as tax dependents (42 CFR § 435.603(f)(1)). For purposes of Medicaid eligibility only, when a woman is pregnant, this definition of "family size" also includes the number of children the pregnant woman expects to deliver (42 CFR § 435.603(b); State Plan Amendment (SPA) 13-0055-MM3, as approved by the US Department of Health and Human Services, March 19, 2014).

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 \$28,780.00 for a five-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).

Generally, Medicaid coverage begins on the first day of the month in which the applicant was found eligible (42 CFR § 435.915(b)).

Legal Analysis

The first issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that your husband was eligible for an APTC of up to \$72.00 per month.

The application that was submitted on September 6, 2017 listed an annual household income of \$53,176.00 and the eligibility determination relied upon that information.

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

You and your husband reside with your son in Suffolk County, where the second lowest cost silver plan available for an individual through NYSOH costs \$453.55 per month. Since your husband is the only one seeking insurance through a qualified health plan, we use the cost of an individual plan to determine eligibility for APTC.

An annual income of \$53,176.00 is 263.77% of the 2016 FPL for a three-person household. At 263.77% of the FPL, the expected contribution to the cost of the health insurance premium is 8.62% of income, or \$72.00 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 (\$453.55 per month) minus your expected contribution (\$72.00 per month), which equals \$363.55 per month. Therefore, rounding to the nearest dollar, NYSOH correctly determined your husband to be eligible for up to \$72.00 per month in APTC.

The second issue is whether your husband was properly found ineligible 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 \$53,176.00 is 263.77% of the applicable FPL, NYSOH correctly found your husband to be ineligible for cost sharing reductions.

The third issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your husband was ineligible for the Essential Plan.

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 \$53,176.00 is 263.77% of the 2016 FPL, NYSOH properly found your husband to be ineligible for the Essential Plan.

The fourth issue is whether NYSOH properly determined that your husband was 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.

When calculating family size for Medicaid purposes, the household size of either a pregnant woman or a person who is in the family of a pregnant woman includes not only the pregnant woman but also the number of children she expects to deliver. On the date of your NYSOH application, you were pregnant Consequently, the Marketplace determined your husband's eligibility for Medicaid using a five-person household.

On the date of your application, the relevant FPL was \$28,780.00 for a five-person household. Since \$53,176.00 is 184.77% of the 2017 FPL, NYSOH

properly found your husband to be ineligible for Medicaid on an expected annual income basis, using the information provided in your 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.

You submitted an application over the phone on August 18, 2017. Therefore, we will determine your eligibility for Medicaid based on your August income.

You submitted a paystub that shows you received \$3,848.00 on August 21, 2017. You provided documentation that shows that your husband's monthly income for August was \$0.00, after deducting business expenses.

To be eligible for Medicaid, your husband would need to meet the non-financial criteria and have an income no greater than 138% of the FPL, which is \$3,310.00 per month. Since the documentation you provided shows that you earned \$3,848.00 in August 2017, your husband does not qualify for Medicaid on the basis of monthly income as of the date of your application.

You testified that you wanted your husband to be eligible for Medicaid because you are Medicaid eligible, and because your household income is the same for both you and your husband. However, your Medicaid eligibility differs from your husband's Medicaid eligibility because you are pregnant. To be eligible for Medicaid as a pregnant woman, you would need to meet the non-financial criteria and have an income a modified adjusted gross income at or below 223% of the FPL for the applicable family size, which is \$5,349.00. Since the documentation provided shows that you earned \$3,848.00 in August 2017, you qualify for Medicaid on the basis of monthly income as of the date of your application.

Since the September 9, 2017 eligibility determination properly stated that, based on the information you provided, your husband was eligible for up to \$72.00 per month in APTC, ineligible for cost-sharing reductions, ineligible for the Essential Plan and ineligible for Medicaid, it is correct and is AFFIRMED.

Decision

The September 7, 2017 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

Effective Date of this Decision: November 20, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

Your husband remains eligible for up to \$72.00 in APTC.

Your husband is ineligible for cost-sharing reductions.

Your husband is ineligible for the Essential Plan.

Your husband is ineligible for Medicaid.

This decision does not affect your husband's eligibility to apply for and enroll during open enrollment for a plan for the benefit year beginning on January 1, 2018, which open enrollment period began on November 1, 2017, and will extend through January 31, 2018.

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 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).

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 September 7, 2017 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

Your husband remains eligible for up to \$72.00 in APTC.

Your husband is ineligible for cost-sharing reductions.

Your husband is ineligible for the Essential Plan.

Your husband is ineligible for Medicaid.

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.

(Arabic)العربية

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

(Bengali)

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。

<u>नेपाली (Nepali)</u>

यो एउटा महत्त्वपूर्ण कागजात हो। यसलाई बुझ तपाईंलाई मद्दत चाहिन्छ भने, कृपया 1-855-355-5777 मा फोन गर्नुहोस्। हामीले तपाईंले बोल्ने भाषामा तपाईंलाई नि:शुल्क 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 yε tow krataa a ho hia. Sε wo hia εho nkyerεkyerεmu a, yε srε wo, frε 1-855-355-5777. yεbεtumi ama wo obi a okyerε 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 کرم5777-355-485-1 پر کال کریں۔ ہم آپ کو آپ کی مادری زبان میں ایک مفت مترجم فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

<u>Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)</u>

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.

