

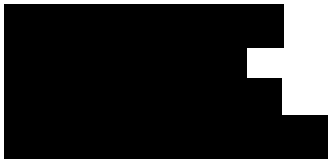


STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 11729
Albany, NY 12211

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: December 20, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000022488



Dear [REDACTED]

On November 29, 2017, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's September 19, 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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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 11729
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Decision

Decision Date: December 20, 2017

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000022488



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 and your spouse were eligible for the Essential Plan?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that your children were eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans each with \$9.00 monthly premiums?

Did NY State of Health properly determine that you, your spouse, and your children were not eligible for Medicaid?

Procedural History

On September 18, 2017, NY State of Health (NYSOH) received your updated application for financial assistance with health insurance. That day a preliminary eligibility determination was prepared finding you and your spouse eligible to enroll in Essential Plans, each with \$20.00 monthly premiums, and your children were eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans, each with \$9.00 monthly premiums, effective November 1, 2017.

Also on September 18, 2017, you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed that preliminary eligibility determination insofar as your family was not found eligible for Medicaid.

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On September 19, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you and your spouse were eligible to enroll in Essential Plans with \$20.00 monthly premiums and your children were eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans with \$9.00 monthly premiums, for a limited time, effective November 1, 2017. That notice stated that your family was not eligible for Medicaid because your household income was over the allowable income limits for that program. This notice further directed you to submit income documentation to confirm your family's eligibility by December 17, 2017.

Also on September 19, 2017, NYSOH issued a plan enrollment notice confirming your and your spouse's enrollment in Essential Plans and your children's enrollment in Child Health Plus plans, effective November 1, 2017.

On November 29, 2017, you had a telephone hearing with a Hearing Officer from NYSOH's Appeals Unit. The record was developed during the hearing and was held open until December 15, 2017, to allow you time to submit supporting income documentation.

As of December 15, 2017, the Appeals Unit did not receive any documents from you and none were viewable in your NYSOH account. Therefore, the record was closed that same day and this decision is based on the record as developed at the time of the hearing.

Findings of Fact

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

- 1) You testified that you expect to file your 2017 taxes with a tax filing status of married filing jointly. You will claim three dependents on that tax return.
- 2) You are seeking health insurance for yourself, your spouse, and your three children.
- 3) Your three children are all between the ages of [REDACTED].
- 4) The application that was submitted on September 18, 2017, listed an annual household income of \$50,000.00, consisting of income your spouse earns from his employment. You testified that this amount was correct.
- 5) You testified, and your application indicates, that you do not work and do not have an income.
- 6) Your application states that you will not be taking any deductions on your 2017 tax return.

- 7) You testified that you have taken student loan interest deductions on your federal tax return in the past, but that your student loans are currently in deferment and have been since the beginning of 2017.
- 8) You testified that you were unsure how much your spouse earned in September 2017.
- 9) The system calculated your spouse's monthly income to be \$4,166.67, based on the information provided in your application.
- 10) You testified that you would like your family to be found eligible for Medicaid.

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

Applicable Law and Regulations

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 \$28,440.00 for a five -person household (81 Federal Register 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/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)).

Child Health Plus

Child Health Plus (CHP) is a sliding-scale-premium program for children who are in a household that is over income for regular Medicaid (see New York Public Health Law (NY PHL) § 2510 et seq. and 42 USC § 1397aa). Eligibility rules are set out in NY PHL § 2511(2), as well as in the NYS Department of Health 2008-2012 Contract and Plan Manual.

A child who meets the eligibility requirements for CHP may be eligible to receive a subsidy payment if the child resides in a household with a household income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (NY PHL § 2511(2)(a)(iii)). To be eligible to enroll in CHP with subsidy payments, a child must not be "eligible for medical assistance"; that is, must not be eligible for Medicaid (NY PHL § 2511(2)(b)).

The amount of the premium payment, if any, that must be made on behalf of a child who enrolls in a CHP plan depends upon the child's family household income (NY PHL § 2510(9)(d)). No payments are required for eligible children whose family household income is less than 160% of the FPL (NY PHL § 2510(9)(d)(1)). If the family household income is 160% or higher, premiums range from \$9.00 per month to \$60.00 per month (NY PHL § 2510(9)(d)).

The CHP premium is \$9.00 per month for a child whose family household income is between 160% and 222% of the FPL, but no more than \$27.00 per month per family (NY PHL § 2510(9)(d)(ii)).

In an analysis of Child Health Plus 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).

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

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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 child who is at least one year of age but younger than nineteen is eligible for Medicaid if he or she meets the non-financial criteria and has a household modified adjusted gross income that falls at or below 154% of the FPL for the applicable family size (42 CFR § 435.118(c); New York State Department of Social Services Administrative Directive 13 OHIP/ADM-03).

In the case of an individual who expects to file a tax return and does not expect to be claimed by another taxpayer, the household consists of the taxpayer and all persons whom such individual expects to claim as a tax dependent (42 CFR § 435.603(f)(1)).

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).

Legal Analysis

The first issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you and your spouse were eligible for the Essential Plan, effective November 1, 2017.

The application that was submitted on September 18, 2017 listed an annual household income of \$50,000.00 and the eligibility determination relied upon that information.

You are in a five-person household for purposes of this analysis. This is because you expect to file your 2017 income taxes as married filing jointly and will claim three dependents on that tax return.

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 \$28,440.00 for a five-person household. Since an annual household income of \$50,000.00 is 175.81% of the

2016 FPL, NYSOH properly found you and your spouse to be eligible for the Essential Plan.

The second issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your children were eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans each with \$9.00 monthly premiums.

According to the record, you and your spouse expect to file a joint federal income tax return for the 2017 tax year and claim your three children as dependents. Therefore, your children are in a five-person household.

In your September 18, 2017 application, you attested to an expected household income of \$50,000.00. The application also stated that all your children were under the age of nineteen as of the date of your application. NYSOH relied upon this information.

A child is eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus if they meet the non-financial requirements, are not eligible for Medicaid, and have a household income below 400% of the FPL. Households with an income between 160% and 222% of the FPL are responsible for a \$9.00 per month Child Health Plus premium payment.

On the date of your application, the relevant FPL was \$28,780.00 for a five-person household. Since \$50,000.00 is 173.73% of the 2017 FPL, NYSOH properly found your children to be eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans each with \$9.00 per month premium payments.

The third issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your family 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. Medicaid can be provided through NYSOH to children between the ages of one and nineteen who meet the non-financial requirements and have a household modified adjusted gross income that is at or below 154% of the FPL for the applicable family size

On the date of your application, the relevant FPL was \$28,780.00 for a five-person household. Since \$50,000.00 is 173.73% of the 2017 FPL, NYSOH properly found you, your spouse and your children 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.

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Your application submitted on September 18, 2017 listed an expected household annual income of \$50,000.00 and NYSOH relied upon this information when determining your eligibility. Using the information provided in your September 18, 2017 application, the system calculated your family's monthly household income to be \$4,166.67.

The Hearing Officer left the record open until December 15, 2017 to allow you time to submit income documentation for the month of September 2017. However, by the end of the business day on December 15, 2017, there were no income documentation received by the NYSOH's Appeals Unit, nor were there any income documents viewable on your NYSOH account.

Since there is no other reliable income documentation indicating your family's household income for the month of September 2017 in the record, NYSOH's Appeals Unit must rely upon the system calculated income amount for this Decision.

To be eligible for Medicaid, you and your spouse would need to meet the non-financial criteria and have a household income no greater than 138% of the FPL, which is \$3,310.00 per month; and your children would need to meet the non-financial criteria and have a household income no greater than 154% of the FPL, which is \$3,694.00 per month. Since the system calculated your family's household's monthly income to be \$4,166.67 in September 2017, your family does not qualify for Medicaid on the basis of monthly income as of the date of your September 18, 2017 application.

Since the September 19, 2017 eligibility determination notice properly stated that, based on the information you provided in your application, you and your spouse were eligible for the Essential Plan each with \$20.00 monthly premiums, your children were eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans each with \$9.00 monthly premiums, and your family was ineligible for Medicaid, it is correct and is AFFIRMED.

Decision

The September 19, 2017 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

This Decision has no effect on any subsequent eligibility determinations made issued NYSOH.

Effective Date of this Decision: December 20, 2017

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

This Decision does not affect your family's current eligibility.

NYSOH properly determined you and your spouse to be eligible for the Essential Plan each with \$20.00 monthly premiums.

NYSOH properly determined your children to be eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans each with \$9.00 monthly premiums.

NYSOH properly determined that your family was ineligible for Medicaid.

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

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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 19, 2017 eligibility determination notice is **AFFIRMED**.

This Decision has no effect on any subsequent eligibility determinations made issued NYSOH.

This Decision does not affect your family's current eligibility.

NYSOH properly determined you and your spouse to be eligible for the Essential Plan.

NYSOH properly determined your children to be eligible to enroll in Child Health Plus plans with \$9.00 monthly premiums.

NYSOH properly determined that your family was 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.

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)

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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 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 bɛtumi ama wo obi a okyerɛ 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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