



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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: February 15, 2018

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000024901



On February 12, 2018, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's November 23, 2017 and December 16, 2017 discontinuance notices.

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 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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NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
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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 not eligible to enroll in coverage through NYSOH as of January 1, 2018 because you are not considered lawfully present in the country, and because you are over the income limit for Medicaid?

Procedural History

On November 21, 2017, you applied to NYSOH for financial assistance with health insurance. Also on that date you uploaded to your NYSOH account a Department of Homeland Security Form G-485 Document Verification Request.

On November 22, 2017, based on your Department of Homeland Security Form G-485 Document Verification Request, NYSOH determined your immigration status.

Also on November 22, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective January 1, 2018. The notice directed that you provide proof of your immigration status by February 19, 2018.

On November 23, 2017, NYSOH issued a discontinuance notice, stating that, effective January 1, 2018, you were no longer eligible for health insurance through NYSOH. The notice stated that you did not qualify for Medicaid because

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your household income was over the allowable income limit, and you did not qualify for the Essential Plan, or to enroll in a qualified health plan, because verification documentation showed that you were not lawfully present.

On November 27, 2017, you again applied for financial assistance. On that date, NYSOH received a copy of your I-766 Employment Authorization Card reflecting a category code of "C33."

Also on November 27, 2017, you contacted NYSOH's Account Review Unit and requested an appeal of that eligibility determination, insofar as you were not eligible for coverage through NYSOH.

On November 28, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective January 1, 2018. The notice directed that you provide proof of your immigration status by February 25, 2018.

Also on November 28, 2017, NYSOH issued an enrollment confirmation notice stating that you were enrolled in an Essential Plan with a start date of January 1, 2018.

On December 14, 2017, NYSOH verified your immigration documentation.

On December 15, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective January 1, 2018. The notice directed that you provide proof of your immigration status by February 25, 2018.

Also on December 15, 2017, NYSOH issued an enrollment confirmation notice stating that you were enrolled in an Essential Plan with a start date of January 1, 2018.

On December 16, 2017, NYSOH issued a discontinuance notice, stating that, effective January 1, 2018, you were no longer eligible for health insurance through NYSOH. The notice stated that you did not qualify for Medicaid because your household income was over the allowable income limit, and you did not qualify for the Essential Plan, or to enroll in a qualified health plan, because verification documentation showed that you were not lawfully present.

Also, on December 16, 2017, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating that your Essential Plan coverage was ending, effective January 1, 2018.

On February 12, 2018, 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) Your application indicates that you expect to file your 2017 taxes with a status of single and you will claim no dependents on that tax return.
- 2) Your application states that you are an immigrant non-citizen.
- 3) You uploaded a copy of your Employment Authorization card on November 27, 2017, with the status of C-33, which was verified on December 14, 2017.
- 4) The status of C-33, according to the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) references a status classified as Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals.
- 5) The application that was submitted on November 27, 2017, which requested financial assistance, listed annual household income of \$22,000.00, consisting of income you earn from employment.
- 6) Your application states that you are [REDACTED].
- 7) Your application states that you live in Richmond County.

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 federal poverty level (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).

Qualified Immigrants Transitioned to the Essential Plan

In New York State, qualified immigrants who were formerly eligible for Medicaid through the state, but not eligible for Medicaid under federal law, were transitioned to the Essential Plan as of January 1, 2016 (New York's Basic Health Plan Blueprint, p. 19, as approved January 2016; see <https://www.medicaid.gov/basic-health-program/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf>).

Medicaid

A person who meets certain nonfinancial criteria and has a household income that is at or below the applicable Medicaid income standard is eligible for Medicaid benefits (45 CFR § 155.305(c)). One of the non-financial criteria for Medicaid eligibility is the immigration status of the person applying for health insurance. A person is eligible for Medicaid when his or her immigration status is satisfactory and he or she meets all other requirements for 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 \$12,060.00 for a one-person household (82 Federal Register 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).

Qualified Health Plan

To enroll in a qualified health plan through the Marketplace, an applicant must be a citizen or national of the United States or a non-citizen who is lawfully present in the United States and reasonably expects to become a citizen or remain a lawfully present noncitizen for the entire period for which enrollment is being sought (45 CFR § 155.305(a)(1)).

Immigration Status

Generally, no person except a United States citizen, a naturalized citizen, a qualified alien, and persons permanently residing in the United States under color of law (PRUCOL), is eligible for medical assistance from the state (NY Social Services Law § 122(1); 18 NYCRR § 360-3.2(j)).

A PRUCOL alien is a person who is residing in the United States with the knowledge and permission or acquiescence of the federal immigration agency and whose departure from the United States such agency does not contemplate enforcing (18 NYCRR §360-3.2(j)). The New York Department of Health regards aliens who have been issued an Employment Authorization Document (I-688B or I-766), and have the requisite category code, to be PRUCOL (08 OHIP/INF-4, dated August 4, 2008).

The guide, “Key to I-766/I-688B, Employment Authorization Documents (EADs)”, defines certain codes on the USCIS Employment Authorization Documents” (08 MA/033, dated December 1, 2008, and as amended). It confirms that a person who has category code of “(c)(33)” has PRUCOL status for Medicaid and Child Health Plus only (*id.*).

Legal Analysis

The only issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that you were not eligible to enroll in coverage through NYSOH as of January 1, 2018 because you are not considered lawfully present, and because you are over income for Medicaid.

On November 22, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible for the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective January 1, 2018. The notice directed that you provide proof of your immigration status by February 19, 2018.

On November 27, 2017, NYSOH received a copy of your I-766 Employment Authorization Card reflecting a category code of “C33.” This document was reviewed and verified on December 14, 2017 as valid proof of your immigration status.

As a result, NYSOH issued discontinuance notices stating that you were not qualified to enroll in coverage through NYSOH because the documentation you provided showed that you were not lawfully present, and that you were not eligible for Medicaid because the household income was over the allowable income limit.

Your employment authorization documentation states that you are an immigrant non-citizen with a C-33 status. The status of C-33, according to the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) refers to a status classified as Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals. Individuals who have obtained an Employment Authorization card with the status of C-33 category are persons considered not “lawfully present” for purposes of the federal definition, and are therefore not recognized as eligible to receive federal funding under those programs.

In addition, while individuals who have been determined to be qualified aliens and were formerly eligible for Medicaid through the state, but not eligible for Medicaid under federal law, were transitioned to the Essential Plan as of January 1, 2016, this is not the case for persons who received Deferred Action status.

Therefore, NYSOH was correct in finding you not eligible for coverage under the Essential Plan.

However, NY State has consistently recognized persons with Deferred Action status within the accepted meaning of “*PRUCOL alien*”; even though the federal government has not. The New York Court of Appeals ruled, in *Aliessa, et al. v. Novello* (96 NY 2d 418 [2001]), that New York must provide state-funded Medicaid to the lawfully residing immigrants who had been excluded from access to the federal Medicaid program.

Since your current Deferred Action status does confer PRUCOL status for individuals seeking Medicaid eligibility, we may review whether you meet the financial criteria for Medicaid.

You are in a one-person household. You expect to file your 2017 income taxes as single and will claim no dependents on that tax return.

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 (MAGI) that is at or below 138% of the FPL for the applicable family size. On the date of your applications, the relevant FPL was \$12,060.00 for a one-person household. Since \$22,000.00 is 182.42% 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 application.

Financial eligibility for Medicaid can also be based on current monthly household income and family size.

Your application states that your income in November 2017 was \$1,833.33.

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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 \$1,387.00 per month. Since you earned approximately \$1,833.33 in November 2017, you do not qualify for Medicaid based on monthly income as of the date of your application.

Finally, federal regulations require that a person seeking enrollment in a qualified health plan through NYSOH have United States citizenship or satisfactory or immigration status. Under the federal regulations, individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status are not considered to be lawfully present for the purposes of obtaining coverage in a qualified health plan through NYSOH.

Accordingly, the November 23, 2017 and December 16, 2017 discontinuance notices properly found you to be ineligible for the Essential Plan or to enroll in a qualified health plan, based on your status as not “lawfully present.” Additionally, the notices properly stated that you were ineligible for Medicaid, based on your annual household income being over the limit for that program.

Decision

The November 23, 2017 and December 16, 2017 discontinuance notices are **AFFIRMED**.

Effective Date of this Decision: February 15, 2018

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

You are not eligible for the Essential Plan or enrollment in a qualified health plan because you are not “lawfully present.”

Although you qualify as a PRUCOL alien for state-based Medicaid, you are not eligible for Medicaid at this time because your household income is over the maximum allowable income limit.

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

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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

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Summary

The November 23, 2017 and December 16, 2017 discontinuance notices are AFFIRMED.

You are not eligible for the Essential Plan or enrollment in a qualified health plan because you are not “lawfully present.”

Although you qualify as a PRUCOL alien for state-based Medicaid, you are not eligible for Medicaid at this time because your household income is over the maximum allowable income limit.

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)

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&btumi 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.