



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

Notice of Decision

Decision Date: May 11, 2018

NY State of Health Account ID: [REDACTED]
Appeal Identification Number: AP000000029827



Dear [REDACTED],

On May 4, 2018, you appeared by telephone at a hearing on your appeal of NY State of Health's January 17, 2018 eligibility determination and plan disenrollment notices, and the March 7, 2018 eligibility determination and plan enrollment 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 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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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 and enrollment in the Essential Plan ended effective February 28, 2018?

Did NYSOH properly determine that your eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan was next effective April 1, 2018?

Procedural History

On October 14, 2017, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan for a limited time, effective November 1, 2017. The notice further directed you to provide documentation confirming your income before January 11, 2018.

Also on October 14, 2017, NYSOH issued a plan enrollment notice confirming your enrollment in an Essential Plan, effective November 1, 2017.

Finally, on October 14, 2017, NYSOH issued a Notice of Change in Address confirming that you updated your mailing address in your account and that all notices about from NYSOH would be mailed to this new address.

On January 17, 2018, 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 March 1, 2018.

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Also on January 17, 2018, NYSOH issued a disenrollment notice stating that your enrollment in the Essential Plan would end as of February 28, 2018, because you were no longer eligible to remain enrolled in your plan.

On March 6, 2018, 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 and you selected a plan for enrollment, both beginning April 1, 2018.

Also on March 6, 2018 you spoke to NYSOH's Account Review Unit and appealed because you had a gap in your Essential Plan coverage during the month of March 2018.

On March 7, 2018, NYSOH issued an eligibility determination notice stating that you were eligible to enroll in the Essential Plan, effective April 1, 2018.

Also on March 7, 2018, NYSOH issued a plan enrollment notice confirming your enrollment in your Essential Plan, effective April 1, 2018.

On May 4, 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) You testified, and your application indicates, that you receive your notices from NYSOH by regular mail.
- 2) According to your NYSOH account and your testimony, on October 13, 2017, you updated your mailing address in your NYSOH account.
- 3) The October 14, 2017 eligibility determination and plan enrollment notices were mailed to your previous address.
- 4) You testified that you did not receive any notices stating that your eligibility was conditional and that you needed to provide documentation of your household's income.
- 5) According to your NYSOH account and your testimony, you next updated your NYSOH account and selected an Essential Plan for enrollment on March 6, 2018.

- 6) You testified that you are seeking enrollment in your Essential Plan as of March 2018.

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/downloads/ny-blueprint.pdf>; 42 CFR § 600.345(a)(2)).

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

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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 and enrollment in the Essential Plan ended effective February 28, 2018.

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 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 October 14, 2017, 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 January 11, 2018. The record reflects that NYSOH did not receive the requested income documentation before the deadline.

However, the credible evidence of record reflects that you did not submit the requested documentation through no fault of your own. On October 13, 2017, you updated your mailing address in your NYSOH account. The record reflects that NYSOH mailed the October 14, 2017 eligibility determination and plan enrollment notices to your previous address. You testified that you did not receive any notices stating that your eligibility was conditional and that you needed to provide documentation of your household's income.

NYSOH is required to send applicants proper notice in order for applicants to take appropriate action. The credible evidence of record reflects that NYSOH did not mail the October 14, 2017 notices to your correct mailing address. Therefore,

NYSOH did not provide you with proper notice that there was an inconsistency in your NYSOH account in order for you to take appropriate action.

Accordingly, the January 17, 2018 eligibility determination and disenrollment notices stating that you are no longer eligible for and could not remain enrolled in the Essential Plan as of February 28, 2018, because you failed to submit documentation are RESCINDED.

Your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to reinstate your coverage in your Essential Plan as of March 1, 2018.

The second issue under review is whether NYSOH properly determined that your eligibility for and enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective April 1, 2018.

You testified, and your NYSOH account confirms, that you updated your NYSOH application on March 6, 2018 and 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 you selected an Essential Plan on March 6, 2018, your enrollment properly took effect on the first day of the first month following March 2018; that is, on April 1, 2018.

Therefore, the March 7, 2018 eligibility determination and plan enrollment notices stating that your enrollment in the Essential Plan was effective April 1, 2018, is correct and must be AFFIRMED.

Decision

The January 17, 2018 eligibility determination notice is RESCINDED.

The January 17, 2018 disenrollment notice is RESCINDED.

Your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to reinstate your coverage in your Essential Plan as of March 1, 2018, and to notify you accordingly.

The March 7, 2018 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

The March 7, 2018 plan enrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

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).

Effective Date of this Decision: May 11, 2018

How this Decision Affects Your Eligibility

NYSOH erred in terminating your Essential Plan effective February 28, 2018, without proper notice.

Your case is being sent back to NYSOH to reinstate your coverage in your Essential Plan for the month of March 2018.

You will be responsible to pay the monthly premium to the health plan directly for coverage to resume that month.

NYSOH properly found that your reenrollment in the Essential Plan was effective April 1, 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

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- 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 January 17, 2018 eligibility determination notice is RESCINDED.

The January 17, 2018 disenrollment notice is RESCINDED.

Your case is RETURNED to NYSOH to reinstate your coverage in your Essential Plan as of March 1, 2018, and to notify you accordingly.

NYSOH erred in terminating your Essential Plan effective February 28, 2018, without proper notice.

Your case is being sent back to NYSOH to reinstate your coverage in your Essential Plan for the month of March 2018.

You will be responsible to pay the monthly premium to the health plan directly for coverage to resume that month.

The March 7, 2018 eligibility determination notice is AFFIRMED.

The March 7, 2018 plan enrollment notice is AFFIRMED.

NYSOH properly found that your reenrollment in the Essential Plan was effective April 1, 2018.

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 1-855-355-5777번으로 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)

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 मदद 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.

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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