

Filing Taxes if You Have a Marketplace Health Insurance Plan

When you file your taxes each year, you have to tell the IRS about your health insurance coverage. If you (or anyone in your household) purchased health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace (also called healthcare.gov), there is important information that you need to know before you file your income taxes.

Health insurance affects your taxes

If you buy your health insurance through the Marketplace, you may get some financial help. That is called an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC). Think of the APTC like a coupon that you get every month to lower the cost of your health insurance premium. APTCs are only available for plans purchased through the Marketplace and your income must fall within a certain range to qualify.

If you qualify for an APTC, you can decide how much of it you want to use each month. How much of your tax credit that you decide to use will affect your tax return. For example, if you use all of your available tax credit each month, you may get a smaller refund or even owe money back. If you use only part of your available tax credit, you are more likely to get the rest of it back as a tax refund or owe less back.

If you are worried about owing money back, be sure to contact the Marketplace anytime your income changes during the year. That way, they can adjust your APTC to make sure you are getting the right amount.

| Family Size | Income Range for the next Open Enrollment Period (for 2016 Coverage) |
|---|---|
| <i>You may get financial help if your income falls between these amounts.</i> | |
| Single Person | \$11,770 to \$47,080 |
| Family of 2 | \$15,930 to \$63,720 |
| Family of 3 | \$20,090 to \$80,360 |
| Family of 4 | \$24,250 to \$97,000 |
| Family of 5 | \$28,410 to \$113,640 |

Before you file your taxes

Form 1095-A

You will get Form 1095-A in the mail from the Marketplace if you or anyone in your household enrolled in health insurance through the Marketplace. It should arrive by early February. You can also download the form through your Marketplace account. Form 1095-A tells the IRS how much you received from the Marketplace in Advance Premium Tax Credits. You will get a Form 1095-A even if you only had Marketplace coverage for part of 2015.

Important: DO NOT file your taxes until you have your Form 1095-A.

Form 1095-A includes:

- Information about anyone in your household who enrolled in health insurance through the Marketplace for 2015
- Information about the monthly premiums you paid to your health insurance company
- Information about a “**benchmark**” premium used to decide your APTC
- The amount of your APTC

When you get your Form 1095-A, make sure that the information on the form matches your records. Check things like the number of people in your household and the start and end dates of your coverage.

If you haven't received your Form 1095-A by early February OR if you think your Form 1095-A is incorrect, call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY users call 1-855-889-4325).

You may get more than one Form 1095-A. This will happen if:

- Anyone in your household switched plans in 2015
- Anyone in your household reported life changes (like getting married or having a baby) after coverage began
- You had more than one health insurance policy covering people in your household in 2015

When you are ready to file your taxes

You will use the information from your Form 1095-A to fill out another form. The second form is called Form 8962. (This is like when you use your W2 form to fill out your income tax return.) Form 8962 tells the IRS the amount of APTC you received.

If your income changed during the year and you did not report it

The amount of your APTC is based on how much money you think you will make. Your APTC amount will be adjusted to match your actual income when you file your taxes.

- If your income is lower than what you thought it would be, you might get money back.
- If your income is higher than what you thought it would be, you might owe some money back. There is a maximum amount of money that you will have to pay back for your APTC.

BENCHMARK PREMIUM

Benchmark Premium
This is the premium of the second lowest cost silver plan available in your area. All you need to know is that the benchmark premium is used to decide the amount of your APTC.

If you make this much money... ...this is the most you will have to pay back for your APTCs.

If you are filing taxes as an Individual

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Under \$22,980 | \$300 |
| Between \$22,980 to \$34,470 | \$750 |
| Between \$34,470 to \$45,960 | \$1,250 |
| More than \$45,960 | No maximum amount |

If you are filing taxes jointly as a married couple

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Under \$47,000 | \$600 |
| Between \$47,100 to \$70,650 | \$1,500 |
| Between \$70,650 to \$94,200 | \$2,500 |
| More than \$94,200 | No maximum amount |

If you owe money, you can pay it back in a couple of different ways. For example, if you are unable to pay immediately, you may be eligible for a payment plan or an installment agreement. Ask your AARP or IRS VITA tax preparer or certified public accountant (CPA) about your options.

You can get free and reliable tax preparation!

Both IRS VITA and AARP preparers are knowledgeable about the new requirements for tax filing under the Affordable Care Act.

- IRS VITA sites will complete and file tax returns for families with incomes below \$53,000 for free.
- AARP also provides free tax help. There is no maximum income or minimum age. You do not have to be an AARP member.

If you received a premium tax credit you must file a tax return!

This is true even if you receive non-taxable income, such as social security benefits.

Go to <http://www.georgiawatch.org/taxmap/> for a map of all VITA & AARP sites in Georgia.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Accessed: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/QA-on-Premium-Credits.pdf>



