

FAQ: SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE INCOME LOSS

On August 26, 2020, the federal government started a new Affordable Care Act (ACA) special enrollment period for people and families who have had a loss of income in 2020. If you qualify for this special enrollment period, you can get discounted monthly payments through the Health Insurance Marketplace at bewellnm.com or Healthcare.gov. This sheet answers common questions about this new special enrollment period and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

1. Who is eligible for this new ACA special enrollment period?

The new ACA special enrollment period applies to people who:

- 1) Are currently enrolled in health insurance that they purchased on their own, directly from an insurer (rather than through their employer); and
- 2) Experienced a loss of income in 2020 that makes their expected annual household income low enough to qualify for discounted coverage.

[If you had a drop in income this year, you may now qualify for discounted premiums by switching to a plan offered on beWellnm or Healthcare.gov.](#)

2. I had a loss of household income. Can I use the special enrollment period if I bought the insurance I have now on beWellnm.com or Healthcare.gov?

You don't need a special enrollment period to get reduced premiums and out-of-pocket costs if you got your coverage through beWellnm.com or healthcare.gov. You just need to report a change in income to healthcare.gov. Visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/reporting-changes/how-to-report-changes/> for more information about how to report income changes.

3. What counts as a change in household income?

You have to make your best guess of your 2020 household income. To do this, you will need to figure out your expected total income for the entire calendar year, including earnings before losing income, from all unemployment insurance, and from income you expect to earn for the rest of the year. To learn more, visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/income-and-household-information/income/>.

4. How long do I have to sign up for health insurance through this special enrollment period?

The special enrollment period lasts for 60 days after ending your current plan. OSI recommends working with your current insurer to make sure you do not become uninsured at any point

during your switch to a new plan. This means you should tell your current health plan that you will end the plan you have now when your new plan begins. Your new plan will last through December 31, 2020.

5. Will switching plans affect my deductible or out-of-pocket maximum?

YES. Your current deductible and out-of-pocket maximum will be reset if you switch to a new plan. Changing plans is not recommended if you have already reached or expect to reach your annual deductible for 2020 or met your 2020 maximum out-of-pocket spending.

6. What is the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange/beWellnm?

The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange, or beWellnm is a Marketplace that helps individual and families shop for and enroll in major medical insurance. beWellnm.com and healthcare.gov are the only places that you can get financial assistance to reduce your monthly premiums and out-of-pocket medical expenses. You can use beWellnm's [Plan Comparison Tool to see what kind of health insurance plans you can buy](#). Once you are ready to sign up for a plan, visit www.healthcare.gov to complete an application. If you need help or have any questions beWellnm's phone number is 1-833-862-3935.

7. Where can I get help signing up for a new plan?

Free, local enrollment help is available for New Mexicans. Call 1-833-862-3935 or visit <https://bewellnm.com/get-help> to find someone in your area who can help you explore your options. You can also use beWellnm's [Live Chat](#) feature to message someone for help online.

8. What is an Advance Premium Tax Credit?

An Advance Premium Tax Credit is a discount that you can use to reduce your monthly health insurance premium. If your income is below 400% of the federal poverty level, you can use your Advance Premium Tax Credit to lower your monthly payments for any plan offered on beWellnm or Healthcare.gov.

- If at the end of the year, you've taken more premium tax credit in advance than you're due based on your final income, you'll have to pay back the rest when you file your federal tax return.
- If you've taken less than you qualify for, you'll get the difference back.

9. Can I get an Advance Premium Tax Credit?

If you are a U.S. citizen or [lawfully present immigrant](#) you don't have an affordable health insurance offer from your employer, and your income is below 400% of the federal poverty

level you can likely can get an Advance Premium Tax Credit. When you apply for coverage on beWellnm.com or Healthcare.gov, you estimate your expected income for the year to see if you qualify. You can use [beWellnm’s Plan Comparison Tool](#) to see if you now qualify for premium tax credits. Learn more about [estimating income](#), and see [what to include](#). The chart below shows the maximum income your household can have in order to qualify for Medicaid and financial assistance on beWellnm/Healthcare.gov.

2020 Income Limits for Advance Premium Tax Credits

Household Size	Annual Income Limit for Discounted Premiums
1	\$49,960
2	\$67,640
3	\$85,320
4	\$103,000
5	\$120,680
6	\$138,360
7	\$156,040
8	\$173,720

10. Can I stay with my current insurer if I switch to Marketplace coverage?

Many of the insurers that you can buy health plans from directly also offer plans on beWellnm.com and Healthcare.gov. Your current plan may even be available on the Marketplace. Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico, Molina, New Mexico Health Connections, and True Health New Mexico have plans available on the Marketplace. See which options are available by using beWellnm’s [Plan Comparison Tool](#).

11. Can someone who is currently uninsured sign up for health insurance through this open enrollment period?

No. This enrollment period is only for individuals and families currently enrolled in health insurance that they purchased directly from a health insurance company.

12. What if I lost my job-based health insurance during the pandemic?

The special enrollment period for loss of job-based health insurance is 60-days after the date you lost your coverage. However, this period has been extended if you or your family has been impacted by COVID-19. If you had a change in your insurance status since January 1st, but missed the deadline to apply for coverage due to the COVID-19 emergency, you may qualify for

an extended special enrollment period. See if you qualify for a special enrollment period:
<https://www.healthcare.gov/screener/>

13. What if I didn't sign up for health insurance this year and don't qualify for any special enrollment period?

You may be able to sign up for health insurance through Medicaid or New Mexico's High Risk Pool. You can sign up for these programs any time during the year. The New Mexico Health Coverage Connector tool can point you in the right direction:

<https://www.osi.state.nm.us/index.php/nmhealthcoverageconnector/>.

New Mexico's High Risk Pool also provides premium discounts for people with a household income under 400% of the federal poverty level. Please call 1-844-728-7896 for more information.

Medicaid provides coverage for low-income individuals. Please call 1-855-637-6574 for more information.

Start Here
Do you qualify for Medicaid?
Depending on your income and family size, you may qualify for Medicaid. To apply, call 1-855-637-6574 or apply online at the YES New Mexico portal.
1-855-637-6574
yes.state.nm.us

Are you eligible to enroll in a plan through beWellnm?
If you don't qualify for Medicaid, you **may now qualify** for no or low-cost private insurance through beWellnm. **If you have recently lost your job or seen a reduction in your income, call 1-833-862-3935 to see if you qualify for coverage.**
1-833-862-3935
bewellnm.com

Another option:
The New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool
If you don't qualify for Medicaid or coverage through beWellnm, **everyone in New Mexico** can get coverage through the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool. To request an application call 1-844-728-7896 or visit www.nmmip.org.
1-844-728-7896
nmmip.org

14. When is the next open enrollment period?

The Open Enrollment Period for the 2021 plan year is November 1, 2020 to December 15, 2020.