



Covered California or Private Market? What is best for me?



Do you think you may be eligible for a premium subsidy, a cost sharing subsidy or Medi-Cal assistance?

We can help you get the answer!

This notice is intended to give you some clarity and direction on this very important question. It outlines the information we will need from you in order to help you determine if you are eligible for a subsidy and to take advantage of the assistance available to get you enrolled in a plan that works best for you and your family!

Premium assistance, cost-sharing assistance and Medi-Cal are the three available options for getting financial help and are outlined as follows:

Premium Assistance

Federal help is available to reduce the cost of an individual or family's monthly health insurance payments. For example, individuals who make \$46,680 or less a year and families of four that make \$95,400 or less per year may be eligible.

Cost-Sharing Assistance

Cost-sharing subsidies reduce the amount of health care expenses an individual or a family has to pay at the time of medical care. This program protects lower income individuals from high out-of-pocket costs at the time of service. For example, individuals who make \$24,858 or less a year and families of four that make \$50,801 or less per year may be eligible.

Premium Assistance and Cost-Sharing Assistance is only available through Covered California.

Medi-Cal Assistance

More people will now qualify for this program including people under the age of 65, those with disabilities, and those with incomes of \$16,105 or less a year for a single individual and \$32,913 or less for a family of four.

Please note: If you are eligible for Medi-Cal, you are not eligible for a subsidy under Covered California. You can still enroll in a medical plan through Covered California or the private market, but you will not be entitled to any premium assistance. We can still help you if you are Medi-Cal eligible.

How is annual income determined?

Definition of Annual Household Income: Eligibility for Medi-Cal and Covered California subsidies will be based on a household's Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). For most taxpayers, MAGI is the same as Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) which can be found on Line 4 on a Form 1040EZ, Line 21 on a Form 1040A, or Line 37 on a Form 1040.

Taxpayers who receive non-taxable Social Security benefits, earn income living abroad, or earn non-exempt interest should add back that income to AGI to calculate MAGI.

Medi-Cal eligibility will be determined excluding the following types of income: scholarships, awards, or fellowship grants used for education purposes and not for living expenses, and certain American Indian and Alaska Native income derived from distributions, payments, ownership interests, real property usage rights, and student financial assistance.

Are there any other factors that are taken into consideration?

Yes. The other factors include:

- The number of people in the household (regardless of whether everyone is enrolling in a plan)
- Home Zip Code
- Ages of those who would enroll in a plan

Based on all of this information, how do I find out if I qualify?

Contact Sierra Benefit Solutions either via email at team@sierrabenefit.com or via telephone at (866) 618-9977 with the above information or complete the attached **Subsidy Eligibility Data Collection Form** and scan/email or fax it per the instructions on the form. We can key in this information on your behalf on the Covered California website to let you know if you qualify for any of the financial assistance. If you qualify, we can then discuss with you the various plan options available and help complete your enrollment. Please also note that the Covered California website is still experiencing issues and slow downs due to the high volume.

If you do not qualify, it is DEFINITELY in your best interest to have us help you to explore ALL of the individual options. Since all of the plans available on Covered California are also available in the private market at the same rates, it only makes sense for someone to purchase coverage through Covered California if they qualify for a subsidy. The application process is less cumbersome (no financial paperwork is required) in the private market and not all plans that are available on the private market are in Covered California so it makes sense to be in the private market and have access to more options unless there is a subsidy involved.

We can help you explore the various plan options available to you based on your own personal and financial needs. Please complete the attached **Individual Medical Plan Data Collection Form** and scan/email or fax it per the instructions on the form.

Additional Important Enrollment Notes

If you have already completed an application on Covered California, you still have the opportunity to use us as your broker. This would allow you the option to call our office in the event you have questions regarding your coverage, any claim or billing issues or need assistance in any way with your policy – instead of getting hung up (no pun intended☺) in either the Carrier or Covered California’s phone tree system. If this is the case, please contact our office and we can work with Covered California to get that changed on your behalf.

All Covered California applications need to have our agency information on it. At this time, they are only appointing individuals within companies – and not specific companies. In an effort to keep everything streamlined we are using Leah Ann Zogg as the Agent and the Agent number 0B24183 on all applications. Please be sure to use that agent information when completing any forms on Covered California.

We know this is a lot of information to digest. To keep it simple, please call our office or email us the needed information so we can determine your eligibility for financial assistance. Once we know if you qualify or not, we can move forward with helping you find a plan that best meets your needs. We look forward to talking to you soon!

Sierra Benefit Solutions Insurance Services, Inc.

Darlene Duco and Leah Ann Zogg

Email: team@sierrabenefit.com

Phone (866) 618-9977 or (530) 745-0531

FAX (530) 823-3140

Covered California Agent #0B24183

Proud Members of the Following Associations:





Subsidy Eligibility Data Collection Form



If you would like to find out if you are eligible for a subsidy through Covered California, please complete this form and scan/email it to Sierra Benefit Solutions at team@sierrabenefit.com or fax to (530) 823-3140.

Before you get started: If you currently receive or are offered affordable health insurance through an employer or public program, unfortunately, you won't be eligible to receive premium assistance to help you afford insurance purchased through Covered California.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Household Information

Please be sure to include everyone in your household and all sources of income in this section regardless of whether or not they are enrolling for coverage.

Number of People in Household: _____

Annual Household Income: _____

Zip Code: _____

County: _____

Enrollee Information

Only enter members of your household who would enroll in a plan.

Enter the Name and Date of Birth of each person to be covered

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Home Zip Code: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Home Zip Code: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Home Zip Code: _____

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Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (866) 618-9977.