

Complex Eligibility Scenarios

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
November 10, 2016



Scenario 1:

Affordability



Affordability Thresholds

The definition of affordability for marketplace enrollment is different from the definition of affordability for an exemption.

Eligibility for APTC

despite an offer of employer-sponsored coverage

9.69% (for 2017)



Non-taxed social security included in household income



Determined based on cost of employee-only coverage (i.e., family glitch)

Eligibility for Exemption

in the Marketplace or on the tax return

8.16% (for 2017)



Non-taxed social security is <u>NOT</u> included in household income



For family members, determined based on family cost



Open Enrollment: Applying for Coverage

Roberto, Monica, Elena and Miguel

- Roberto and Monica are married and have two children, Elena and Miguel
- Household income for 2017: \$37,000 (152% FPL)
- No one is enrolled in coverage



Monica's employer offers multiple plans:

Plan A	
\$	

Employee-only premium: \$100/month (3.2% of income)

Employee + family premium: \$275/month (8.9% of income)

→ Preferred doctor not in network



Employee-only premium: \$150/month (4.9% of income)

Employee + family premium: \$325/month (10.5% of income)

→ Preferred doctor in network

Applying for Coverage: Eligibility for PTC

Is Monica eligible for PTC based on ESI?

Does the lowest-cost plan that covers only the employee cost more than 9.69% of household income?

- No, the lowest cost employee-only plan is 3.2% of income
- The plan is considered affordable



	SUMMARY OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND PLAN COSTS						
Н	Household income: \$37,000						
4	Employee-only premium: \$100/month	В	Employee-only premium: \$150/month				
Plan	Employee + family premium: \$275/month	Plan	Employee + family premium: \$325/month				

x Not eligible for PTCs

RESULT: Monica chooses not to enroll in any coverage



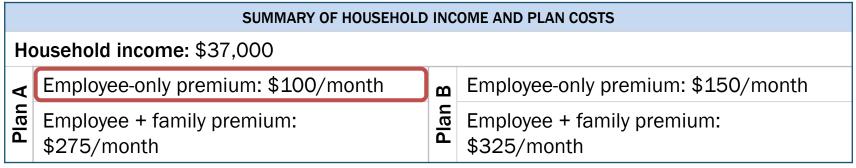
Applying for Coverage: Eligibility for PTC

Is Roberto eligible for PTC based on ESI?

Does the lowest-cost plan that covers only the employee cost more than 9.69% of household income?

 No → Roberto is considered to have an affordable offer of coverage because the employee-only plan is affordable





x Not eligible for PTCs

RESULT: Roberto chooses not to enroll in any coverage



Applying for Coverage: Eligibility for PTC

Are the kids eligible for PTC based on ESI?

Does the lowest-cost plan that covers only the employee cost more than 9.69% of household income?

 No → The kids are also considered to have affordable coverage because the employeeonly plan is affordable



Household income: \$37,000 Employee-only premium: \$100/month Employee + family premium: \$275/month Employee + family premium: \$325/month

x Not eligible for PTCs

RESULT: Elena and Miguel enroll in CHIP

However: Offers of other coverage don't affect eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP

Elena and Miguel are found eligible for CHIP



At Tax Time

Roberto and Monica (parents)

- Uninsured all year
- They will need to see if either person qualifies for an exemption

Elena and Miguel (kids)

- Enrolled in CHIP all year
- Will receive a Form 1095-B indicating coverage in every month of the year



REMINDER: Approaching Exemptions

At the time of application, consider eligibility for marketplace exemptions that **may be forfeited if circumstances change**:

- Medicaid coverage gap exemption
- Affordability exemption

NEXT STEP

Does any individual qualify for an **exemption available on the tax return?**

NEXT STEP

Does anyone qualify for a hardship exemption granted by the Marketplace?

Exemption Type (available on the tax return)	IRS Code
Income below the filing threshold	No Code
Insurance is considered unaffordable	Code A
Short coverage gap (uninsured for less than 3 consecutive months)	Code B
Certain noncitizens and citizens living abroad	Code C
Health care sharing ministry	Code D
Federally-recognized Indian tribe or eligible for IHS	Code E
Incarceration	Code F
Aggregate self-only coverage is considered unaffordable	Code G
Individuals in a state that did not expand Medicaid	Code G
Months before birth/adoption or after death	Code H

Exemption Based on Lack of Affordable Coverage

- Eligible for exemption if available coverage is more than 8.16% (in 2017) of household income
- One available through the marketplace
 - Based on projected income
 - Must be applied for during an open enrollment or special enrollment period
- One available through the IRS
 - Based on actual income
 - Claim directly on the tax return at tax time

REMINDER:

What is considered unaffordable coverage?

If eligible for an offer of ESI:

- For the employee: the lowest cost self-only plan costs more than 8.16% of household income
- For members of the employee's family: the lowest cost family plan costs more than 8.16% of household income.

If not eligible for an offer of ESI:

 Lowest cost bronze plan (after PTCs) for all nonexempt members of the taxpayer's family costs more than 8.16% of household income

Reminder: Household income for exemptions includes <u>only the taxable portion</u> of Social Security benefits

Exemption Based on Lack of Affordable Coverage

₩-

- The marketplace affordability exemption is useful when:
 - → Members of the household are subject to the family glitch
 - → Applicant's self-only ESI is at least 8.16% of income but less than 9.69% (2017 coverage year)
 - → Applicant's self-only ESI appears affordable only because of the addition of non-taxed Social Security benefits
 - → Applicant is between jobs and has difficulty predicting annual income
 - → A person wants to enroll in catastrophic coverage

At Tax Time: Eligibility for Exemption

Is Monica eligible for an exemption?

Does the lowest cost employee-only plan cost more than 8.16% of income?

- No, the lowest cost plan that covers only Monica is 3.2% of household income
- It is considered affordable



	SUMMARY OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND PLAN COSTS						
Н	Household income: \$37,000						
4	Employee-only premium: \$100/month	B	Employee-only premium: \$150/month				
Plan	Employee + family premium: \$275/month	Plan	Employee + family premium: \$325/month				

Not eligible for an exemption based on affordability

RESULT: Will need to calculate a penalty for Monica



At Tax Time: Eligibility for Exemption

Is Roberto eligible for an exemption?

Does the lowest cost family plan that covers Roberto cost more than 8.16% of income?

- Yes, the lowest cost family plan that covers
 Roberto is 8.9% of household income
- It is considered unaffordable



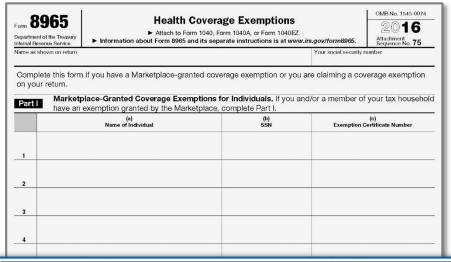
	SUMMARY OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND PLAN COSTS					
Нс	Household income: \$37,000					
4	Employee-only premium: \$100/month	m	Employee-only premium: \$150/month			
Plan	Employee + family premium: \$275/month	Plan	Employee + family premium: \$325/month			

Eligible for an exemption based on affordability

RESULT: Will need to complete Form 8965 to claim exemption from the penalty



At Tax Time: Claiming an Exemption





Marketplace-Granted Coverage Exemptions for Individuals. If you and/or a member of your tax household have an exemption granted by the Marketplace, complete Part I.

(a)
(b)
(c)
Exemption Certificate Number

Roberto Ruiz

1

If he applies for the exemption through the marketplace

Part I	Part III Coverage Exemptions Claimed on Your Return for Individuals. If you and/or a member of your tax household are claiming an exemption on your return, complete Part III.															
	(a) Name of Individual	(b) SSN	(c) Exemption Type	(d) Full Year	(e) Jan	(f) Feb	(g) Mar	(h) Apr	(i) May	(j) June	(k) July	(I) Aug	(m) Sept	(n) Oct	(o) Nov	(p) Dec
8	Roberto Ruiz		Α	✓												

If he claims the exemption directly on the tax return

At Tax Time: Calculating the Penalty

- Income: \$37,000 (152% FPL)
- Filing status: Married Filing Jointly
- Family size: 4 (2 adults, 2 children)
- Who is uninsured: 2 adults
- Months uninsured: 12
- Who qualifies for an exemption: 1 adult
- Tax filing threshold: \$20,700



$$1. \$37,000 - \$20,700 = \$16,300$$

x 2.5%

\$408

2.
$$$695 \times 1 \text{ adult} =$$

\$695

Penalty amount for Monica





Note: For this example, we are using **percentages for the penalty calculation and tax filing thresholds from the 2016 tax year** (2017 numbers are not available at this time)

Scenario 2:

Noncustodial Parents



Noncustodial parents

Lisa, Jackson and David

- Lisa lives with her son, Jackson
- She is divorced from Jackson's dad, David
- As part of their divorce agreement, Lisa and David alternate claiming Jackson as a dependent on their tax return

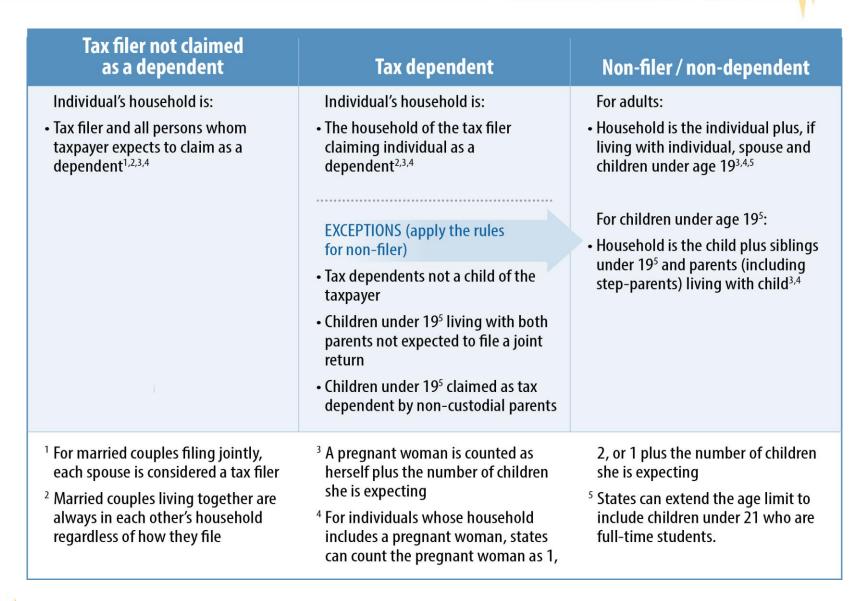


- Lisa's income: \$20,000
- Child support received by Lisa: \$10,000 (not counted in MAGI)
- David's income: \$40,000
- Neither parent is offered coverage through work





REMINDER: Summary of Medicaid Household Rules



Years Custodial Parent Claims Dependent

Lisa

Lisa is a household of 2



	Cou	HH Size for		
	Lisa	Jackson	David	Medicaid
Lisa	✓	✓		2
Jackson	✓	✓		2
David			✓	1

MEDICAID HH RULE

TAX FILER

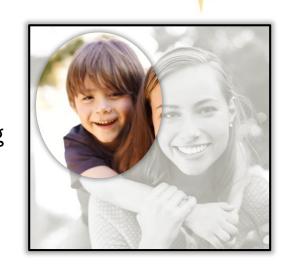
- ✓ Tax filer
- ✓ Spouse and dependents on the tax return



Years Custodial Parent Claims Dependent

Jackson

- Jackson is still in a household with Lisa
- He is a tax dependent and lives with the parent claiming him



	Cou	HH Size for		
	Lisa	Jackson	David	Medicaid
Lisa	✓	✓		2
Jackson	✓	✓		2
David			✓	1

MEDICAID HH RULE

TAX DEPENDENT

 Same household as tax filer claiming individual as dependent

Years Custodial Parent Claims Dependent

David

David is in a household by himself



	Cou	HH Size for		
	Lisa	Jackson	Medicaid	
Lisa	✓	✓		2
Jackson	✓	✓		2
David			✓	1

MEDICAID HH RULE

TAX FILER

- ✓ Tax filer
- ✓ Spouse and dependents on the tax return

Years Noncustodial Parent Claims Dependent

Lisa

 Lisa is a household of 1 because she does not claim Jackson



	Cou	HH Size for		
	Lisa	Jackson	David	Medicaid
Lisa	✓			1
Jackson	✓	✓		2
David		✓	✓	1

MEDICAID HH RULE

TAX FILER

- ✓ Tax filer
- ✓ Spouse and dependents on the tax return

Years Noncustodial Parent Claims Dependent

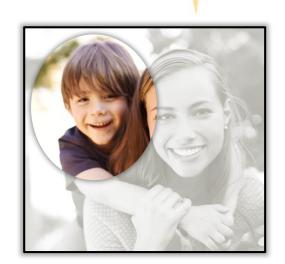
Jackson

Jackson is still in a household with Lisa

EXCEPTIONS (apply the rules for non-filer)

- Tax dependents not a child of the taxpayer
- Children under 19⁵ living with both parents not expected to file a joint return
- Children under 19⁵ claimed as tax dependent by non-custodial parents

 Even though he is claimed by David, he is treated as a nonfiler because he lives with his mom but is being claimed by his dad, a noncustodial parent



	Cou	HH Size for					
	Lisa	Lisa Jackson David					
Lisa	✓			1			
Jackson	✓	✓		2			
David		✓	✓	2			

MEDICAID HH RULE

NON-FILER NON-DEPENDENT

If Under 19:

- ✓ Individual
- ✓ Siblings, parents, and children living with individual



Years Noncustodial Parent Claims Dependent

David

 David is in a household with Jackson because he claims him as a dependent



	Cou	HH Size for		
	Lisa	Jackson	Medicaid	
Lisa	✓			1
Jackson	✓	✓		2
David		✓	✓	2

MEDICAID HH RULE

TAX FILER

- ✓ Tax filer
- ✓ Spouse and dependents on the tax return

Determining Household Size for PTCs

Years Custodial Parent Claims Dependent

Lisa and Jackson

 Lisa claims Jackson as a dependent and they are in a tax unit together

David

David is in tax unit by himself



	Cou	HH Size for		
	Lisa	Jackson	David	PTC
Lisa	✓	✓		2
Jackson	✓	✓		2
David			✓	1



Determining Household Size for PTCs

Years Noncustodial Parent Claims Dependent

Lisa

- Lisa lives with Jackson but doesn't claim him as a tax dependent
- Her tax unit includes just herself

Jackson and David

 David and Jackson are in a tax unit together, even though they don't live together because David claims Jackson as a dependent

	Counted in Household				
	Lisa	Jackson	David	PTC	
Lisa	✓			1	
Jackson		✓	✓	2	
David		✓	✓	2	







	Medicaid			Premium Tax Credits			
	нн	Income	FPL	PL HH Income			
Lisa	2	\$20,000	126%	2	\$20,000	126%	
Jackson	2	\$20,000	126%	2	\$20,000	126%	
David	1	\$40,000	340%	1	\$40,000	340%	

Outcome
Medicaid
Medicaid/CHIP
PTCs

Lisa

- Lisa will apply for coverage by herself and Jackson
- They will have the same household for both Medicaid and PTC

David

 David will apply for coverage on his own





	Medicaid			Premium Tax Credits			
	нн	Income	FPL	нн	Income	FPL	
Lisa	1	\$20,000	170%	1	\$20,000	170%	
Jackson	2	\$20,000	126%	2	\$40,000	251%	
David	2	\$40,000	251%	2	\$40,000	251%	

Outcome				
PTCs				
Medicaid/CHIP				
PTCs				

Lisa

- Lisa will apply for coverage by herself
- Because Jackson is under 19 and living with her, Lisa should include him on her application as a nonapplicant

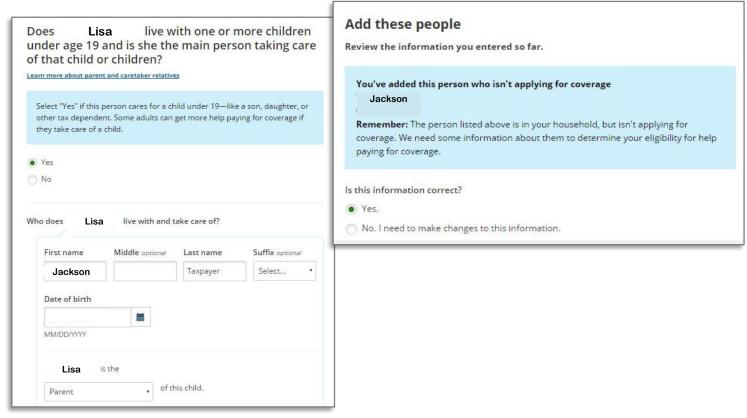
David

- David will include Jackson on his application as a dependent and applicant
- He will indicate that Jackson lives with another parent

Years Noncustodial Parent Claims Dependent

Filling out the application: Lisa

- Lisa will apply for coverage by herself
- Because Jackson is under 19 and living with her, Lisa should include him on her application as a non-applicant

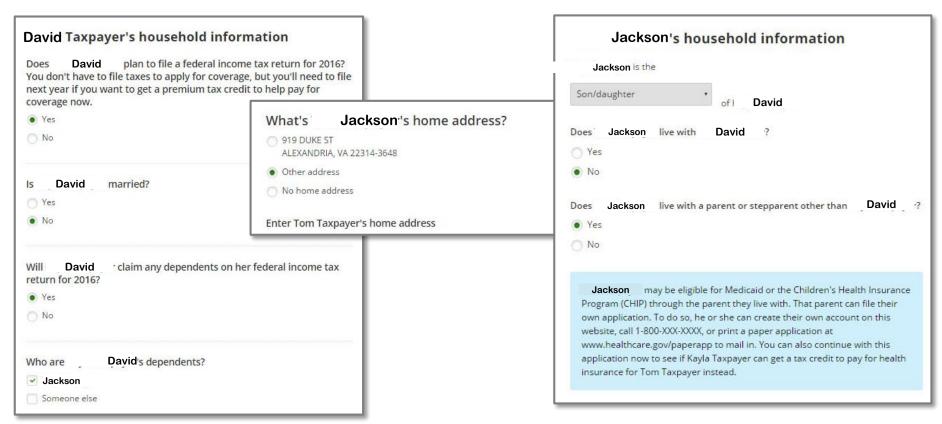




Years Noncustodial Parent Claims Dependent

Filling out the application: David

- David will include Jackson on his application as a dependent and applicant
- He will indicate that Jackson lives with another parent





Scenario 3: Changes in Circumstances

Increased Household Income



Self-Employment Income

George

- Self-employed carpenter
- Hasn't filed taxes in a while because it seems complicated and he can't afford an accountant



Tips When Dealing with Self-Employment Income



Advice for estimating income:

- Does the person have regular monthly income?
- If no regular income, what jobs are lined up for the year?
- If no good projected estimate, consider adding or subtracting from previous year's income (if available)
- Make estimates by job or by month (using receipts, invoices, bank records, etc.)

Advice for estimating expenses:

- Does the person have regular monthly expenses?
- What large expenses does the person anticipate?
- What were the person's expenses in previous year?
- Use receipts, credit card/debit card records, known costs of supplies

What types of business expenses may be deductible?

- Advertising
- Commissions
- Contract labor
- Legal or professional fees
- Office supplies

- Rent/lease/repair of equipment
- Business meals and entertainment
- Telephone and utilities
- Business mileage or transportation expenses



Self-Employment Income

George

- Self-employed carpenter
- Hasn't filed taxes in a while because it seems complicated and he can't afford an accountant
- This month, he made about \$2,000 (after paying expenses related to his carpentry business)
- He decides to use that as a base for his income projection for the year

In May...

- George get a big client that will increase his annual income by \$5,000
- He reports the change to the marketplace



Mid-Year Increase in Income

Original projection:

\$2,000 a month: \$24,000 for the year (202% FPL)

Updated projection:

\$24,000 + \$5,000: \$29,000 for the year (244% FPL)

Recalculation of APTC Should Account for Amount Already Received

Estimated annual PTC at the beginning of the year (based on projected annual income of 202% FPL)	\$2,846 (\$237/month)
Estimated annual PTC after reporting a change in income (based on adjusted annual income of 244% FPL)	\$2,099
APTCs received from January through May	\$1,185
APTCs eligible to receive for the rest of the year	\$914 (\$130.50/month for 7 months)



Mid-Year Increase in Income

Original projection:

\$2,000 a month: \$24,000 for the year (202% FPL)

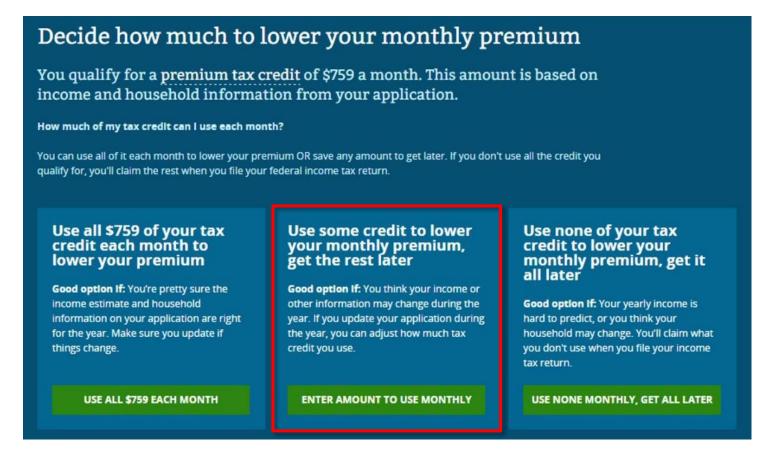
Updated projection:

• \$24,000 + \$5,000: \$29,000 for the year (244% FPL)

	No Change Reported	Taking Into Account APTC Already Received	Without Taking Into Account APTC Already Received
Monthly APTCs from Jan to May (based on projected annual income of 202% FPL)	\$237	\$237	\$237
Monthly APTCs from Jun to Dec (based on adjusted annual income of 244% FPL)	(per month all year)	\$130.50	\$175
Total APTCs received for the year	\$2,846	\$2,099	\$2,410
Final premium credit for 2017	\$2,099	\$2,099	\$2,099
Payment owed to IRS	(\$747) owed	\$0	(\$311) owed

What can George do when he reports his change in income to minimize the possibility of a repayment at tax time?

Try taking less than the full amount of APTC





Scenario 3: Changes in Circumstances

Tax Dependents



Tax Dependents

Katie

- 22 years old and a full-time student
- She lives on campus and makes \$2,500 from a work-study job
- Katie's tuition is \$10,000 a year

Tuition paid with: \$5,000 in academic scholarships

\$2,000 from Katie's parents

\$3,000 in Stafford loans in Katie's name



Jay and Priya (Katie's parents)

Earn \$45,000 a year and help support Katie

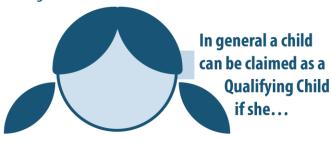


Can Katie Be Claimed as a Tax Dependent?

Can Katie be claimed as a Qualifying Child?

Children

A child can include the tax filer's child, step child, adopted child, foster child, brother, sister, niece, nephew or grandchild





Is a U.S. citizen or resident (for tax purposes) of the U.S., Canada or Mexico



Lives with the tax filer for more than half the year



Is under 19 at the end of the year (or 24 if a full-time student or any age if disabled)



Doesn't provide more than half of her own support



Living away from home while attending school is a "temporary absence" and is still considered time in the home

"Full-time student" = full-time for at least 5 months of the tax year

Support includes
educational expenses
(Loans in the child's name
are considered the child's
own support)

Can Katie Be Claimed as a Tax Dependent?

Does Katie provide more than half her own support?

Based on what we know now, she might be a dependent

SUPPORT	TOTAL COST	KATIE PAYS
Housing & Utilities	\$7,200 (\$600/month)	\$ 0
Food	\$2,400 (\$200/month)	\$1,800 (\$150/month)
Clothing	\$1,800 (\$150/month)	\$1,800 (\$150/month)
Education	\$10,000	\$3,000
Other	\$1,000	\$500
Total	\$22,400	\$7,100
		(32% of total support)



- ✓ YES, Katie is a dependent
- She is paying less than 50% of her own support

Applying for Coverage

They all apply for health coverage as a tax household of 3

 They are eligible for PTC of \$996 a month based on household income of \$45,000 (223% FPL)

They all enroll in the benchmark silver plan together

The monthly cost after subsidies is \$272



At Tax Time: Is Katie Still a Tax Dependent?

- During the summer, Katie works at a restaurant and earns an additional \$7,000
- She decides to use savings from that job to pay the rest of her tuition for the fall semester plus pitch in for other expenses, like partial rent

SUPPORT	TOTAL COST	KATIE PAYS
Housing & Utilities	\$7,200 (\$600/month)	\$1,200 (\$300/month: Sept-Dec)
Food	\$2,400 (\$200/month)	\$2,400 (\$200/month)
Clothing	\$1,800 (\$150/month)	\$1,800 (\$150/month)
Education	\$10,000	\$5,000
Other	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total	\$22,400	\$11,400
		(51% of total support)



NO, Katie is not a dependent

- She is paying more than 50% of her own support
- Therefore, she will not be a tax dependent

Errors in Household Composition: Tax Consequences

Katie not qualifying as Priya and Jay's dependent changes their household from 3 to 2 for the year:

- → Projected household of 3: \$45,000 (223% FPL)
- → Actual household of 2: \$45,000 (281% FPL)
- \rightarrow Katie's household of 1: \$9,500 (80% FPL)

At enrollment:

Family size: 3 (223% FPL)

Priya; Jay; Katie

APTC: \$996/month

Silver plan cost: \$272



Katie earns more than expected and pays more than half of her own support. She is not a dependent for the year.

At tax filing:

Family size:

2 (281% FPL) *Priya; Jay* 1 (80% FPL) Katie





Shared Policy Allocations

₩

- Sometimes, household projections prove incorrect
- If a Form 1095-A shows enrollees that are not on the taxpayer's return, it's a shared policy allocation

Shared Policy Allocations simplified rules					
	DIVORCE	SEPARATION	SHIFTING ENROLLEE*		
WHAT TO ALLOCATE	Premiums paidBenchmarkAPTC	PremiumsAPTC	Premiums paidBenchmarkAPTC		
HOW TO ALLOCATE	Any percentage, by agreement50/50, if no agreement	■ 50/50, if no agreement	Any percentage, by agreementProportional, if no agreement		

^{*}Shifting enrollee: When a person was included in one household at the time of enrollment but is in a different household (or their own household) at tax filing.

Errors in Household Composition: Tax Consequences

 They receive Form 1095-A with all three family members listed

Premiums: \$15,213 (\$1,268/month)

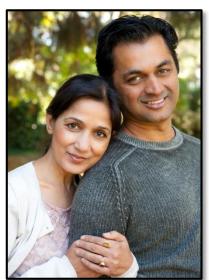
Benchmark: \$15,213 (\$1,268/month)

– APTC: \$11,954 (\$996/month)

 Shared policy allocation: Family can allocate the premium, benchmark and APTC in any way (the family will usually do best if the lowest-income tax filer claims the entire credit)

	Allocation of Premium, Benchmark and APTC					
	Katie: 0%	Priya/Jay: 100%	Katie: 33%	Priya/Jay: 67%	Katie: 100%	Priya/Jay: 0%
Final PTC	\$0	-\$842	\$885	-\$1,917	\$3,069	\$0

Note: shared policy allocations are out of scope for VITA/TCE





Contact Info

- Tara Straw, <u>tstraw@cbpp.org</u>
- Halley Cloud, <u>cloud@cbpp.org</u>
- General inquiries: <u>beyondthebasics@cbpp.org</u>

For more information and resources, please visit: www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org

This is a project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, <u>www.cbpp.orq</u>

