

FAQ

Changes to the Marketplace in the Inflation Reduction Act

The Inflation Reduction Act extends the increased marketplace premium subsidies that were enacted by the American Rescue Plan Act through 2025. Without the Inflation Reduction Act, this increased financial help would have ended at the end of 2022.

With the increased premium subsidies in effect, monthly premium payments are lower and many more people can enroll in a marketplace plan at low or no cost. These changes affect people regardless of whether their state uses HealthCare.gov or its own state-based marketplace.

1 How Does the Inflation Reduction Act Affect Premiums?

- ▶ **Continued lower premiums for people eligible for financial help.** The law ensures that people can continue to pay lower premiums for marketplace coverage by extending increases to the advance premium tax credit (APTC) through 2025. Premiums are reduced across the board for people with income under 400% of the [federal poverty level \(FPL\)](#). Anyone whose income is at or below 150% FPL (about \$20,000 for a single person) can enroll in a zero-premium benchmark (second-lowest cost silver) plan, after APTC. Higher APTCs help more people afford marketplace plans, and may put a silver or gold plan, which have lower cost-sharing, in financial reach for some people who previously chose lower-cost bronze plans.
- ▶ **Continued financial help for higher-income people.** People with income over 400% FPL (about \$54,000 for a single person) will continue to be eligible for an APTC through 2025, assuming they meet other eligibility requirements. The maximum any enrollee will pay for a benchmark plan is 8.5 percent of their income.

2 How Can People Access These Lower Premiums?

The lower premiums are calculated automatically when a person applies for marketplace coverage through HealthCare.gov or a state-based marketplace. No additional action is required. To get an estimate of monthly premium payments after APTC, visit [HealthCare.gov/See-Plans](#).

3 How Does the Inflation Reduction Act Affect the Low-Income SEP?

The Low-Income Special Enrollment Period (SEP) started in 2022 and is available to people with a projected income at or below 150% FPL (\$20,385 for a household of one and \$41,625 for a family of four in 2023). People eligible for this SEP can enroll in a marketplace plan in any month during the year, without having to experience a qualifying life event.

Importantly, the Low-Income SEP can only be used in years when increased APTC allows

people with income up to 150% FPL to purchase a benchmark plan with a zero-dollar premium. (In some cases, premiums might be slightly higher than zero dollars, if a state elects a more comprehensive benefit package.) Since the Inflation Reduction Act extended the availability of zero-premium plans for people with income up to 150% FPL, the Low-Income SEP will also remain available through 2025. For more information, see [FAQ: New Low-Income Special Enrollment Period](#).

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