

New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options

Part A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way to buy private individual health insurance: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage we offer to you. Please note that this notice is informational only.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find private individual health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October 2013 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2014.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does the Employment-Based Health Coverage We Offer to You Affect Your Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If we have offered you health coverage that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and you may wish to enroll in our health plan, if you are eligible. (Just because you received this Marketplace notice does not mean you are eligible.) However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if we do not offer coverage to you at all or do not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of self-only coverage under our health plan is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if our health plan does not meet the "minimum value"¹ standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting our health plan coverage, then you may lose our contribution (if any) to your coverage under our health plan. Also, our contribution—as well as your employee contribution—is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

¹ An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.

How Can I Get More Information About the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit www.healthcare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area. In California, visit www.coveredca.com.

Part B: Information About Employer-Provided Health Plan Coverage

If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked for information about our health plan coverage. The information below can help you complete your application for coverage in the Marketplace.

1. General Employer Information.

Employer name:	Santa Clara County Office of Education
Employer Identification Number (EIN):	94-6020929
Employer street address:	1290 Ridder Park Drive
Employer phone number:	408 453-6500
Employer city:	San Jose
Employer state:	CA
Employer ZIP code:	95131
Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?:	Human Resources
Phone number (if different from above):	408 453-6820
Email address:	tina_cordoba@sccoe.org (A-G) loraine_hobgood@sccoe.org (H-O) sheri_meyers@sccoe.org (P-Z)

2. Eligibility. You may be asked whether or not you are currently eligible for our health plan coverage or whether you will become eligible for coverage within the next three months. In addition, if you are or will become eligible, you may be required to list the names of your dependents that are eligible for coverage under our health plan.

If you would like information about the eligibility requirements for our health plan, you may contact your Employee Benefits Specialist in Human Resources at the telephone or email noted above.

3. Minimum Value. If you are eligible for coverage under our health plan, you may be required to check a box indicating whether or not our health plan meets the minimum value standard. Our health plan coverage meets the minimum value standard.

4. Premium Cost. If you are eligible for coverage under our health plan, you may be asked to provide the amount of premiums you must pay for self-only coverage under the lowest-cost health plan that meets the minimum value standard.

If you would like information about the premiums for self-only coverage under our lowest-cost health plan, please contact your Employee Benefits Specialist in Human Resources at the telephone number or email noted above.

5. Future Changes. You may also be asked whether or not we will be making certain changes to our health plan coverage for the new plan year. As usual, you will be provided with information about any changes to our health plan coverage before the next open enrollment period. If you are not sure how to answer this question on your Marketplace application, please contact the Marketplace.