



New Health Insurance  
Tax Credits in Georgia

Families USA

---

**Help Is at Hand:  
New Health Insurance Tax Credits in Georgia**

© April 2013 by Families USA

*This publication is available online at [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org).*

**Families USA**

1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-628-3030

Fax: 202-347-2417

Email: [info@familiesusa.org](mailto:info@familiesusa.org)

[www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org)

**S**tarting in 2014, the Affordable Care Act will extend health coverage to millions of Americans. This will be done, in part, by offering tax credits to help low- and middle-income Americans afford private coverage. These new tax credits, which will offset a portion of the cost of health insurance premiums, will soon become a reality, allowing many previously uninsured Georgians to purchase quality health coverage.

This report takes a closer look at these premium tax credits in Georgia, which will help Georgians with incomes up to four times the federal poverty level (\$94,200 for a family of four in 2013)<sup>1</sup> afford coverage. The unique structure of the tax credits means that people will be protected from having to spend more than a set percentage of their income on health insurance premiums. These premium tax credits will take effect in January 2014, following open enrollment that begins in October 2013.

Families USA commissioned The Lewin Group to use its widely respected Health Benefits Simulation Model to estimate how many people in Georgia and across the country could benefit from the new premium tax credits in 2014. We found that nearly 803,000 Georgians will be eligible for the tax credits in 2014.

Most of the people who will be eligible for the tax credits will be in working families and will have incomes between two and four times poverty (between \$47,100 and \$94,200 for a family of four based on 2013 poverty guidelines). However, because the size of the tax credits will be determined on a sliding scale based on income, those with the lowest incomes will receive the largest tax credits, ensuring that the assistance is targeted to the people who need it most.

Every state, including Georgia, will have a new health insurance marketplace (also called an exchange) that will make it easier for residents to gain health coverage. Though these new state marketplaces may look different, all of them will help individuals and families find coverage that meets their specific needs. The tax credits will help people who are looking for coverage in their state's marketplace better afford such coverage.

In order to maximize the number of people who receive the new tax credits, Georgia and states across the country will need to develop robust outreach programs to educate consumers about this new help. The state marketplaces will need to offer insurance shoppers consumer-friendly, simple online enrollment processes, and they'll need to build complementary networks of assisters who can provide in-person, one-on-one help to anyone who needs it.

As this key part of the Affordable Care Act takes effect, many Georgians will enjoy tax relief. They will also enjoy the peace of mind that comes with knowing that they and their family members have affordable health insurance—insurance that they can depend on even if they experience changes in income or become unemployed.

The following examples illustrate the amount of assistance that different kinds of people could receive. For more details on the how to calculate premium tax credits, see “How Much Will the Tax Credits Be Worth?” on page 16.

**EXAMPLE** *Jane Smith, age 45, no children, annual income of \$23,000 (about 200 percent of poverty): If the annual premium for the silver reference plan in the state marketplace in Jane’s zip code is \$5,000, Jane’s out-of-pocket contribution for premiums for the silver reference plan would be about \$1,450 (or about \$121 a month). The remainder of her premium for the silver reference plan would be covered in the form of a tax credit of \$3,550 (or that amount could be credited toward the premiums for a more or less expensive plan of her choice).*

**EXAMPLE** *The Johnsons, a family of four (two adults, two children under age 18), annual income of \$35,300 (about 150 percent of poverty): If the annual premium for the silver reference plan for family coverage in the state marketplace in the Johnsons’ zip code is \$12,500, the Johnsons’ out-of-pocket contribution for premiums for a silver reference plan would be about \$1,410 (or about \$118 a month). The remainder of their premium for the silver reference plan would be covered in the form of a tax credit of \$11,090 (or that amount could be credited toward the premiums for a more or less expensive plan of their choice).*

Note that consumers will be able to select any health insurance plan that is available through the state marketplace in their area, and the law guarantees that there will be a range of plans with different coverage terms and different prices. Each family can pick the plan that meets their needs and still receive the same substantial premium tax credit. How much a family will have to spend on premiums will vary depending on whether they choose a plan that is more or less expensive than the silver level reference plan.

## Key Findings

Beginning in January 2014, new tax credits will be available that will significantly reduce the cost of private health insurance for individuals and families in Georgia.

### Numbers of People Eligible for the Premium Tax Credit

- Statewide, nearly 803,000 Georgians will be eligible for these new premium tax credits in 2014 (see Table 1).
- People with annual incomes between 200 and 400 percent of poverty (between \$47,100 and \$94,200 for a family of four in 2013) will constitute more than half (about 54 percent) of Georgians who will be eligible for premium tax credits (see Table 1).

Table 1.

#### Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, by Income, 2014

Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level	Number in Income Group Eligible	Income Group As a Percent of Those Eligible
0-199%	366,590	45.7%
200-399%	436,050	54.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802,610</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes: Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

### Help for Working Families

- The vast majority of Georgians who will be eligible for premium tax credits—about 88.5 percent—will be in working families.
- Statewide, nearly 711,000 people, the majority of Georgians who will be eligible for premium tax credits, will be in families with a worker who is employed, either full- or part-time (see Table 2 on page 4).

Table 2.

**Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, by Employment Status, 2014**

Employment Status	Number in Employment Group Eligible	Employment Group As a Percent of Those Eligible
Employed*	710,710	88.5%
Not Employed*	91,930	11.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802,610</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

\*The category “employed” includes those employed both full- and part-time. “Not employed” includes those out of the workforce and those not looking for work.

## Help for All Ages

- Premium tax credits will be available to Georgians in all age groups, from hardworking Georgians who are supporting families to young people just starting their careers (see Table 3).
- Young adults are the likeliest age group to be eligible for premium tax credits, making up approximately 36 percent of all those who will be eligible (see Table 3).

Table 3.

**Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, by Age, 2014**

Age Group	Number in Age Group Eligible	Age Group as a Percent of Those Eligible
Under 18	174,790	21.8%
18-34	286,050	35.6%
35-54	248,910	31.0%
55 and over	92,900	11.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802,610</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

## Help for All Races and Ethnicities

- More than half (54 percent) of the Georgians who will be eligible for premium tax credits will be white, non-Hispanics (see Table 4).
- About 28 percent of the Georgians who will be eligible will be black, non-Hispanics (see Table 4).
- Approximately 13 percent of the Georgians who will be eligible will be Hispanics (see Table 4).
- Approximately 5.5 percent of the Georgians who will be eligible will identify themselves as being American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo, Asian or Pacific Islander, or a member of more than one group (see Table 4).

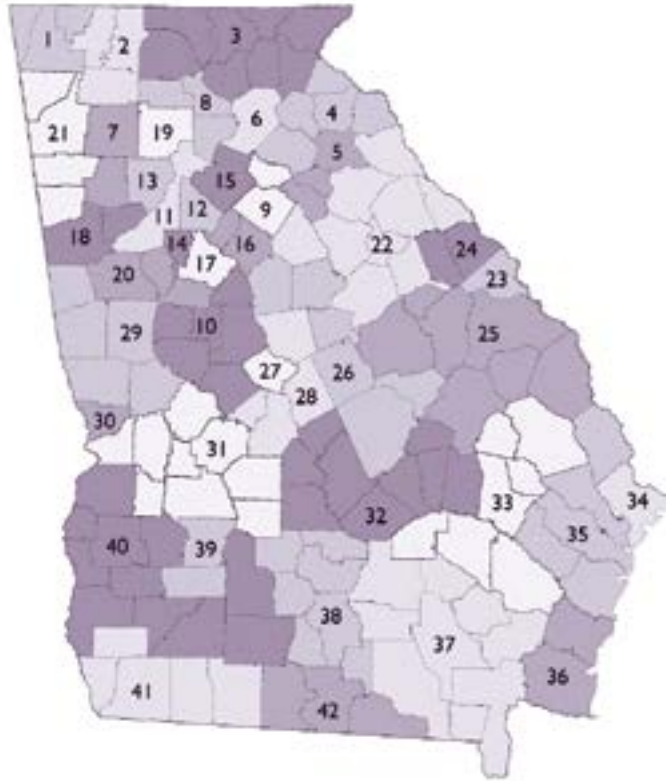
Table 4.

### Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, by Race/Ethnicity, 2014

Racial/Ethnic Group	Number in Racial/Ethnic Group Eligible	Racial/Ethnic Group As a Percent of Those Eligible
White, Non-Hispanic	432,280	53.9%
Black, Non-Hispanic	224,280	27.9%
Hispanic	101,750	12.7%
Other*	44,330	5.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>802,610</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

\* The category "other" includes those who identify themselves as American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo, Asian or Pacific Islander, or a member of more than one group.



### Georgia County Locations

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1  | Catoosa, Dade, Walker  | 24 | Columbia, Mcduffie  |
| 2  | Gordon, Murray, Whitfield  | 25 | Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Screven, Washington                           |
| 3  | Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Rabun, Towns, Union, White                   | 26 | Baldwin, Jasper, Johnson, Laurens, Putnam, Wilkinson  |
| 4  | Banks, Franklin, Hart, Jackson, Stephens   | 27 | Bibb  |
| 5  | Clarke, Madison, Oconee  | 28 | Houston, Jones, Peach, Twiggs   |
| 6  | Hall   | 29 | Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Talbot, Troup  |
| 7  | Bartow, Paulding   | 30 | Muscogee  |
| 8  | Dawson, Forsyth, Pickens   | 31 | Chattahoochee, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, Webster                 |
| 9  | Barrow, Walton   | 32 | Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler, Wilcox            |
| 10 | Butts, Crawford, Lamar, Monroe, Pike, Upson                                      | 33 | Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Wayne                               |
| 11 | Fulton   | 34 | Chatham   |
| 12 | DeKalb   | 35 | Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, Long, McIntosh   |
| 13 | Cobb   | 36 | Camden, Glynn   |
| 14 | Clayton  | 37 | Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, Ware                           |
| 15 | Gwinnett   | 38 | Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Tift, Turner  |
| 16 | Newton, Rockdale   | 39 | Dougherty, Lee  |
| 17 | Henry  | 40 | Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Early, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Terrell, Worth |
| 18 | Carroll, Douglas   | 41 | Decatur, Grady, Miller, Seminole, Thomas  |
| 19 | Cherokee   | 42 | Brooks, Echols, Lowndes   |
| 20 | Coweta, Fayette, Spalding  |    |   |
| 21 | Chattooga, Floyd, Haralson, Polk   |    |   |
| 22 | Elbert, Greene, Hancock, Lincoln, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes |    |   |
| 23 | Richmond   |    |   |



**Table 5. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, Distribution by Income Level and County, 2014**

County Name(s)	Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level				Total Number
	0-199%		200-399%		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1 Catoosa, Dade, Walker	6,550	45.7%	7,780	54.3%	14,340
2 Gordon, Murray, Whitfield	8,670	45.7%	10,300	54.3%	18,970
3 Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Rabun, Towns, Union, White	8,930	43.0%	11,850	57.0%	20,780
4 Banks, Franklin, Hart, Jackson, Stephens	8,030	47.8%	8,760	52.2%	16,790
5 Clarke, Madison, Oconee	8,490	59.0%	5,910	41.0%	14,400
6 Hall	7,520	46.0%	8,840	54.0%	16,360
7 Bartow, Paulding	8,250	40.6%	12,090	59.4%	20,330
8 Dawson, Forsyth, Pickens	6,380	42.4%	8,660	57.6%	15,050
9 Barrow, Walton	7,860	52.0%	7,250	48.0%	15,100
10 Butts, Crawford, Lamar, Monroe, Pike, Upton	4,530	38.9%	7,100	61.1%	11,620
11 Fulton	36,890	47.7%	40,520	52.3%	77,410
12 DeKalb	29,240	46.8%	33,270	53.2%	62,510
13 Cobb	20,990	42.9%	27,950	57.1%	48,940
14 Clayton	11,830	43.6%	15,290	56.4%	27,120
15 Gwinnett	31,450	44.0%	40,060	56.0%	71,510
16 Newton, Rockdale	6,840	41.3%	9,740	58.7%	16,580
17 Henry	4,800	35.8%	8,610	64.2%	13,410
18 Carroll, Douglas	9,770	46.3%	11,330	53.7%	21,090
19 Cherokee	6,050	35.7%	10,900	64.3%	16,950
20 Coweta, Fayette, Spalding	7,840	39.6%	11,960	60.4%	19,810
21 Chattooga, Floyd, Haralson, Polk	7,470	44.9%	9,150	55.1%	16,620
22 Elbert, Greene, Hancock, Lincoln, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes	4,120	46.8%	4,680	53.2%	8,800
23 Richmond	6,950	47.3%	7,740	52.7%	14,680
24 Columbia, Mcduffie	4,680	47.6%	5,140	52.4%	9,820
25 Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Screven, Washington	5,170	56.1%	4,050	43.9%	9,220
26 Baldwin, Jasper, Johnson, Laurens, Putnam, Wilkinson	6,810	56.4%	5,260	43.6%	12,070

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**Table 5. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits,  
Distribution by Income Level and County, 2014 (cont'd)**

County Name(s)	Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Level				Total Number
	0-199%		200-399%		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
27 Bibb	5,310	47.7%	5,830	52.3%	11,140
28 Houston, Jones, Peach, Twiggs	5,850	41.7%	8,190	58.3%	14,030
29 Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Talbot, Troup	4,440	39.5%	6,800	60.5%	11,240
30 Muscogee	5,350	44.8%	6,580	55.2%	11,930
31 Chattahoochee, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, Webster	3,920	53.3%	3,440	46.7%	7,370
32 Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler, Wilcox	4,180	48.7%	4,410	51.3%	8,590
33 Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Wayne	9,080	52.0%	8,390	48.0%	17,460
34 Chatham	9,740	47.2%	10,890	52.8%	20,630
35 Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, Long, McIntosh	5,590	50.1%	5,570	49.9%	11,160
36 Camden, Glynn	3,760	40.7%	5,490	59.4%	9,250
37 Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, Ware	6,590	44.3%	8,290	55.7%	14,870
38 Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Tift, Turner	5,880	50.9%	5,660	49.1%	11,540
39 Dougherty, Lee	4,990	53.4%	4,350	46.6%	9,340
40 Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Early, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Terrell, Worth	5,790	44.2%	7,300	55.8%	13,090
41 Decatur, Grady, Miller, Seminole, Thomas	5,240	49.0%	5,450	51.0%	10,680
42 Brooks, Echols, Lowndes	4,790	47.8%	5,230	52.2%	10,030
<b>Total, all counties</b>	<b>366,590</b>	<b>45.7%</b>	<b>436,050</b>	<b>54.3%</b>	<b>802,610</b>

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**Table 6. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, Distribution by Family Employment Status and County, 2014**

County Name(s)	Employed*		Not Employed*		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1 Catoosa, Dade, Walker	13,010	90.7%	1,330	9.3%	14,340
2 Gordon, Murray, Whitfield	16,950	89.3%	2,020	10.7%	18,970
3 Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Rabun, Towns, Union, White	18,570	89.3%	2,220	10.7%	20,780
4 Banks, Franklin, Hart, Jackson, Stephens	14,990	89.2%	1,810	10.8%	16,790
5 Clarke, Madison, Oconee	12,340	85.7%	2,060	14.3%	14,400
6 Hall	14,560	89.0%	1,800	11.0%	16,360
7 Bartow, Paulding	18,290	90.0%	2,040	10.1%	20,330
8 Dawson, Forsyth, Pickens	13,270	88.2%	1,780	11.8%	15,050
9 Barrow, Walton	13,560	89.8%	1,540	10.2%	15,100
10 Butts, Crawford, Lamar, Monroe, Pike, Upton	10,400	89.5%	1,220	10.5%	11,620
11 Fulton	66,540	86.0%	10,870	14.0%	77,410
12 DeKalb	54,590	87.3%	7,920	12.7%	62,510
13 Cobb	43,470	88.8%	5,470	11.2%	48,940
14 Clayton	24,500	90.4%	2,620	9.6%	27,120
15 Gwinnett	62,530	87.4%	8,990	12.6%	71,510
16 Newton, Rockdale	14,810	89.3%	1,770	10.7%	16,580
17 Henry	11,930	89.0%	1,480	11.0%	13,410
18 Carroll, Douglas	18,880	89.5%	2,210	10.5%	21,090
19 Cherokee	15,390	90.8%	1,560	9.2%	16,950
20 Coweta, Fayette, Spalding	17,620	89.0%	2,180	11.0%	19,810
21 Chattooga, Floyd, Haralson, Polk	14,950	89.9%	1,670	10.1%	16,620
22 Elbert, Greene, Hancock, Lincoln, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes	7,840	89.1%	960	10.9%	8,800
23 Richmond	12,850	87.5%	1,830	12.5%	14,680
24 Columbia, McDuffie	8,740	89.1%	1,080	10.9%	9,820
25 Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Screven, Washington	8,100	87.8%	1,120	12.2%	9,220
26 Baldwin, Jasper, Johnson, Laurens, Putnam, Wilkinson	10,720	88.8%	1,350	11.2%	12,070

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

\* The category “employed” includes those employed both full- and part-time. “Not employed” includes those out of the workforce and those not looking for work.

**Table 6. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits,  
Distribution by Family Employment Status and County, 2014 (cont'd)**

County Name(s)	Employed*		Not Employed*		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
27 Bibb	9,780	87.8%	1,360	12.2%	11,140
28 Houston, Jones, Peach, Twiggs	12,490	89.0%	1,540	11.0%	14,030
29 Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Talbot, Troup	10,020	89.2%	1,220	10.8%	11,240
30 Muscogee	10,570	88.6%	1,370	11.4%	11,930
31 Chattahoochee, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, Webster	6,440	87.4%	930	12.6%	7,370
32 Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler, Wilcox	7,560	88.0%	1,030	12.0%	8,590
33 Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Wayne	15,680	89.8%	1,780	10.2%	17,460
34 Chatham	18,160	88.0%	2,480	12.0%	20,630
35 Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, Long, McIntosh	9,920	88.9%	1,240	11.1%	11,160
36 Camden, Glynn	8,250	89.2%	1,000	10.8%	9,250
37 Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, Ware	13,470	90.5%	1,410	9.5%	14,870
38 Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Tift, Turner	10,440	90.4%	1,100	9.6%	11,540
39 Dougherty, Lee	8,200	87.8%	1,140	12.2%	9,340
40 Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Early, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Terrell, Worth	11,740	89.6%	1,360	10.4%	13,090
41 Decatur, Grady, Miller, Seminole, Thomas	9,610	89.9%	1,080	10.1%	10,680
42 Brooks, Echols, Lowndes	9,020	90.0%	1,010	10.1%	10,030
<b>Total, all counties</b>	<b>710,710</b>	<b>88.5%</b>	<b>91,930</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>802,610</b>

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

\* The category "employed" includes those employed both full- and part-time. "Not employed" includes those out of the workforce and those not looking for work

**Table 7. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, Distribution by Age and County, 2014**

County Name(s)	Under 18		Age 18-34		Age 35-54		Age 55+		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1 Catoosa, Dade, Walker	3,430	24.0%	4,830	33.7%	4,290	29.9%	1,790	12.5%	14,340
2 Gordon, Murray, Whitfield	4,500	23.7%	6,700	35.3%	5,790	30.5%	1,980	10.4%	18,970
3 Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Rabun, Towns, Union, White	4,150	20.0%	6,830	32.9%	7,040	33.9%	2,750	13.3%	20,780
4 Banks, Franklin, Hart, Jackson, Stephens	3,890	23.2%	5,900	35.2%	4,760	28.3%	2,240	13.3%	16,790
5 Clarke, Madison, Oconee	2,510	17.4%	7,370	51.2%	3,140	21.8%	1,390	9.6%	14,400
6 Hall	3,900	23.9%	6,060	37.0%	4,670	28.6%	1,730	10.6%	16,360
7 Bartow, Paulding	4,890	24.1%	7,270	35.7%	6,290	30.9%	1,880	9.2%	20,330
8 Dawson, Forsyth, Pickens	3,880	25.8%	5,490	36.5%	4,050	26.9%	1,620	10.8%	15,050
9 Barrow, Walton	3,560	23.6%	5,390	35.7%	4,600	30.5%	1,550	10.3%	15,100
10 Butts, Crawford, Lamar, Monroe, Pike, Upson	2,700	23.2%	4,030	34.7%	3,460	29.7%	1,440	12.4%	11,620
11 Fulton	13,930	18.0%	28,120	36.3%	25,910	33.5%	9,460	12.2%	77,410
12 DeKalb	11,050	17.7%	21,670	34.7%	22,080	35.3%	7,720	12.3%	62,510
13 Cobb	10,030	20.5%	16,850	34.4%	15,850	32.4%	6,200	12.7%	48,940
14 Clayton	5,950	21.9%	9,200	33.9%	9,520	35.1%	2,450	9.0%	27,120
15 Gwinnett	15,860	22.2%	24,240	33.9%	23,120	32.3%	8,290	11.6%	71,510
16 Newton, Rockdale	3,860	23.3%	5,930	35.8%	5,090	30.7%	1,700	10.2%	16,580
17 Henry	3,260	24.3%	4,890	36.5%	3,930	29.3%	1,330	9.9%	13,410
18 Carroll, Douglas	4,700	22.3%	8,190	38.8%	6,110	29.0%	2,090	9.9%	21,090
19 Cherokee	3,940	23.2%	6,160	36.3%	5,020	29.6%	1,830	10.8%	16,950
20 Coweta, Fayette, Spalding	4,800	24.2%	6,920	35.0%	5,610	28.3%	2,480	12.5%	19,810
21 Chattooga, Floyd, Haralson, Polk	3,880	23.3%	5,830	35.1%	4,920	29.6%	1,990	12.0%	16,620
22 Elbert, Greene, Hancock, Lincoln, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes	2,060	23.4%	2,610	29.7%	2,940	33.4%	1,190	13.5%	8,800
23 Richmond	3,210	21.9%	5,270	35.9%	4,420	30.1%	1,780	12.1%	14,680
24 Columbia, Mcduffie	2,410	24.5%	3,340	34.1%	2,830	28.8%	1,240	12.6%	9,820
25 Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Screven, Washington	2,140	23.2%	3,080	33.4%	2,740	29.7%	1,270	13.8%	9,220
26 Baldwin, Jasper, Johnson, Laurens, Putnam, Wilkinson	2,340	19.4%	4,760	39.4%	3,360	27.9%	1,610	13.3%	12,070
27 Bibb	2,490	22.3%	3,670	32.9%	3,380	30.4%	1,610	14.4%	11,140
28 Houston, Jones, Peach, Twiggs	3,590	25.6%	4,980	35.5%	4,100	29.2%	1,370	9.7%	14,030
29 Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Talbot, Troup	2,700	24.0%	3,680	32.7%	3,360	29.9%	1,500	13.4%	11,240
30 Muscogee	2,760	23.2%	4,340	36.3%	3,420	28.6%	1,420	11.9%	11,930

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**Table 7. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, Distribution by Age and County, 2014 (cont'd)**

County Name(s)	Under 18		Age 18-34		Age 35-54		Age 55+		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
31 Chattoohochee, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, Webster	1,670	22.7%	2,800	38.0%	2,160	29.3%	750	10.1%	7,370
32 Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler, Wilcox	2,020	23.5%	2,970	34.6%	2,520	29.3%	1,080	12.6%	8,590
33 Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Wayne	3,850	22.1%	6,620	37.9%	5,310	30.4%	1,690	9.7%	17,460
34 Chatham	4,090	19.8%	8,090	39.2%	6,000	29.1%	2,450	11.9%	20,630
35 Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, Long, McIntosh	2,740	24.5%	4,480	40.1%	3,060	27.4%	900	8.0%	11,160
36 Camden, Glynn	2,170	23.4%	3,430	37.1%	2,610	28.2%	1,050	11.3%	9,250
37 Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, Ware	3,590	24.1%	4,890	32.9%	4,730	31.8%	1,660	11.2%	14,870
38 Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Tift, Turner	2,620	22.7%	4,190	36.3%	3,330	28.8%	1,400	12.1%	11,540
39 Dougherty, Lee	2,110	22.6%	3,310	35.5%	2,700	29.0%	1,210	12.9%	9,340
40 Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Early, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Terrell, Worth	3,090	23.6%	4,160	31.7%	4,160	31.8%	1,690	12.9%	13,090
41 Decatur, Grady, Miller, Seminole, Thomas	2,250	21.0%	3,640	34.1%	3,610	33.8%	1,190	11.1%	10,680
42 Brooks, Echols, Lowndes	2,230	22.2%	3,910	39.0%	2,910	29.1%	970	9.7%	10,030
<b>Total, all counties</b>	<b>174,790</b>	<b>21.8%</b>	<b>286,050</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>248,910</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>92,900</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>802,610</b>

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

**Table 8. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits, Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and County, 2014**

County Name(s)	White, Non-Hispanic		Black, Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Other*		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
1 Catoosa, Dade, Walker	13,320	92.9%	340	2.4%	370	2.6%	300	2.1%	14,340
2 Gordon, Murray, Whitfield	12,380	65.3%	530	2.8%	5,510	29.0%	550	2.9%	18,970
3 Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Rabun, Towns, Union, White	18,430	88.7%	170	0.8%	1,580	7.6%	600	2.9%	20,780
4 Banks, Franklin, Hart, Jackson, Stephens	14,080	83.8%	1,300	7.7%	900	5.4%	520	3.1%	16,790
5 Clarke, Madison, Oconee	9,770	67.9%	2,250	15.6%	1,650	11.5%	730	5.0%	14,400
6 Hall	9,000	55.0%	840	5.2%	5,990	36.6%	530	3.3%	16,360
7 Bartow, Paulding	15,420	75.8%	2,420	11.9%	1,760	8.6%	740	3.6%	20,330
8 Dawson, Forsyth, Pickens	11,460	76.2%	370	2.4%	2,240	14.9%	980	6.5%	15,050
9 Barrow, Walton	11,700	77.5%	2,190	14.5%	850	5.6%	370	2.4%	15,100
10 Butts, Crawford, Lamar, Monroe, Pike, Upson	8,870	76.3%	2,300	19.8%	250	2.1%	200	1.7%	11,620
11 Fulton	27,390	35.4%	34,190	44.2%	10,610	13.7%	5,230	6.8%	77,410
12 DeKalb	15,060	24.1%	32,840	52.5%	10,180	16.3%	4,420	7.1%	62,510
13 Cobb	23,550	48.1%	11,980	24.5%	9,560	19.5%	3,850	7.9%	48,940
14 Clayton	4,790	17.7%	15,500	57.2%	4,720	17.4%	2,110	7.8%	27,120
15 Gwinnett	28,150	39.4%	14,080	19.7%	19,240	26.9%	10,040	14.0%	71,510
16 Newton, Rockdale	7,810	47.1%	6,070	36.6%	1,960	11.8%	740	4.4%	16,580
17 Henry	7,030	52.4%	4,360	32.5%	1,340	10.0%	680	5.1%	13,410
18 Carroll, Douglas	12,680	60.1%	5,530	26.2%	1,960	9.3%	930	4.4%	21,090
19 Cherokee	12,470	73.6%	1,080	6.4%	2,810	16.6%	590	3.5%	16,950
20 Coweta, Fayette, Spalding	12,670	64.0%	4,500	22.7%	1,630	8.2%	1,010	5.1%	19,810
21 Chattooga, Floyd, Haralson, Polk	12,610	75.9%	1,780	10.7%	1,730	10.4%	500	3.0%	16,620
22 Elbert, Greene, Hancock, Lincoln, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Warren, Wilkes	5,160	58.7%	2,900	33.0%	450	5.1%	280	3.2%	8,800
23 Richmond	6,070	41.3%	7,060	48.1%	700	4.7%	860	5.9%	14,680
24 Columbia, Mcduffie	6,850	69.8%	2,130	21.7%	420	4.3%	410	4.2%	9,820
25 Burke, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Screven, Washington	5,510	59.7%	3,370	36.6%	250	2.7%	90	1.0%	9,220
26 Baldwin, Jasper, Johnson, Laurens, Putnam, Wilkinson	7,940	65.7%	3,770	31.2%	230	1.9%	140	1.2%	12,070
27 Bibb	4,880	43.8%	5,490	49.3%	290	2.6%	480	4.3%	11,140
28 Houston, Jones, Peach, Twiggs	8,370	59.7%	3,980	28.4%	1,160	8.3%	520	3.7%	14,030
29 Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Talbot, Troup	7,480	66.6%	3,190	28.4%	350	3.1%	220	2.0%	11,240
30 Muscogee	5,410	45.3%	5,030	42.2%	860	7.2%	640	5.3%	11,930

**Notes:** Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

\* The category "other" includes those who identify themselves as American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo, Asian or Pacific Islander, or as a member of more than one group.

**Table 8. Georgians Eligible for Premium Tax Credits,  
Distribution by Race/Ethnicity and County, 2014 (cont'd)**

County Name(s)	White, Non-Hispanic		Black, Non-Hispanic		Hispanic		Other*		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
31 Chattoohochee, Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Marion, Schley, Sumter, Taylor, Webster	3,750	50.9%	2,770	37.6%	420	5.6%	440	5.9%	7,370
32 Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wheeler, Wilcox	5,210	60.6%	2,420	28.2%	760	8.9%	200	2.3%	8,590
33 Appling, Bulloch, Candler, Evans, Jeff Davis, Tattnall, Wayne	11,590	66.4%	3,500	20.0%	1,780	10.2%	600	3.4%	17,460
34 Chatham	11,590	66.4%	3,500	20.0%	1,780	10.2%	600	3.4%	17,460
35 Bryan, Effingham, Liberty, Long, McIntosh	7,200	64.5%	2,650	23.8%	890	7.9%	420	3.8%	11,160
36 Camden, Glynn	5,990	64.8%	2,000	21.6%	770	8.3%	500	5.4%	9,250
37 Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce, Ware	10,840	72.9%	2,740	18.4%	950	6.4%	350	2.3%	14,870
38 Ben Hill, Berrien, Cook, Irwin, Lanier, Tift, Turner	7,450	64.5%	2,630	22.8%	1,100	9.5%	360	3.1%	11,540
39 Dougherty, Lee	4,100	44.0%	4,840	51.9%	140	1.5%	250	2.7%	9,340
40 Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Early, Mitchell, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, Terrell, Worth	7,110	54.3%	4,580	35.0%	1,220	9.3%	180	1.4%	13,090
41 Decatur, Grady, Miller, Seminole, Thomas	6,240	58.4%	3,610	33.8%	450	4.2%	390	3.6%	10,680
42 Brooks, Echols, Lowndes	6,040	60.2%	2,860	28.5%	820	8.2%	310	3.1%	10,030
<b>Total, all counties</b>	<b>432,280</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>224,280</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>101,750</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>44,330</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>802,610</b>

Notes: Estimates prepared by The Lewin Group for Families USA (methodology available upon request). Data are for those with incomes below 400 percent of the federal poverty level. Numbers may not add due to rounding.

\* The category "other" includes those who identify themselves as American Indian, Aleut or Eskimo, Asian or Pacific Islander, or as a member of more than one group.



## Discussion

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act comes the promise of affordable health coverage for millions of Americans. In 2010-2011, approximately 1.9 million Georgians were uninsured.<sup>2</sup> The new premium tax credits, which are entirely financed by the federal government, will provide much-needed relief to hundreds of thousands of low- to moderate-income uninsured and underinsured Georgians. This relief will ensure that they will be better able to purchase affordable private health insurance through the new health insurance marketplaces (see “The New Health Insurance Marketplaces” on page 18). Starting in October of this year, individuals and families can begin enrolling in the insurance marketplaces, and they will benefit from this tax relief when the new coverage begins in January 2014. Nearly 803,000 Georgians will be eligible for premium tax credits in the first year that the state marketplace is operational. The size of the credit that individuals and families will be eligible to receive will depend on their income, and the lower a person’s income, the larger his or her tax credit will be. This will ensure that the assistance goes to those who need it the most.

### Eligibility for Tax Credits

Generally, the tax credits will be available to uninsured individuals and families who have incomes between 138 and 400 percent of poverty (between \$15,860 and \$45,960 for an individual, and between \$32,500 and \$94,200 for a family of four in 2013). Some people with incomes below 138 percent of poverty who do not qualify for Medicaid (mainly immigrants who are legal residents but who have been in the United States for fewer than five years) will be eligible for tax credits as well. Workers who would have to pay more than 9.5 percent of their wages to participate in their employer’s plan, and workers whose employer plan pays less than 60 percent of the cost of covered benefits, will also be eligible for the tax credits to help purchase coverage in the state marketplaces.

### What Will Happen When a Family Receives a Tax Credit?

When a person or family qualifies for a tax credit, the dollars from the credit will flow directly to the health plan in which the individual or family enrolls, offsetting the total cost of the family’s health insurance premiums for that plan.

The tax credits will be fully advanceable. This means that the tax credit will be available to pay the premium at the time the person enrolls in a plan. Thus, families will not need to wait until their taxes have been filed and processed in order to receive the credit and enroll in coverage, nor will they need to pay the full premium at the time of enrollment and then wait to be reimbursed.

Finally, the tax credit will be refundable, which means that families with very low incomes who do not owe taxes will be eligible for these tax credits to assist with the cost of premiums. However, the majority of these very low-income families will be eligible for Medicaid, and hence, ineligible for premium tax credits.

## How Much Will the Tax Credits Be Worth?

As described earlier, the size of the tax credit that an individual or family will be eligible for will depend on the individual's or family's income. And how much coverage that credit will help buy will depend on the plan that the individual or family chooses. The new state marketplaces will offer a range of plans with four different coverage levels (from lowest to highest coverage level): bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. The calculations of the size of the tax credits will be linked to the second lowest-cost silver plan, also known as the "silver reference plan." Below, we describe how income and plan choice come together to determine what an individual or family will have to pay out of pocket.

- To determine the size of an individual's or family's tax credit, start with their income. The family's household income will be used to determine the maximum premium contribution the family must pay for a particular "reference plan," described below. This maximum amount—a maximum percentage of family income—will be based on a sliding scale, and those with the lowest incomes will pay the smallest proportion of their incomes on premiums.
- Next, identify the premiums for the second lowest-cost silver plan that is available to the individual or family in the area in which they live. The tax credit amount will be set so that the individual or family will not have to spend more than a specific percentage of their income on premiums for this plan. For example, a family of four with an income of \$47,100 a year would not have to pay more than 6.3 percent of their income toward premiums for a silver plan and would get a tax credit of \$9,530 (see Table 10). Therefore, they would not have to pay more than \$247 a month for the silver reference plan that covers their entire family.
- An individual or family will be free to pick any plan that is available through an exchange. However, the individual's or family's tax credit amount will be based on the premium for the silver reference plan. If a consumer selects a more expensive plan, he or she will pay the difference in price between this more expensive plan and the silver reference plan out of pocket. If a consumer selects a cheaper plan, he or she will still receive the tax credit amount based on the silver reference plan and thus will spend less out of pocket on the premiums for this cheaper plan.
- In addition to premium assistance, some families will be eligible for more help with copayments, deductibles, and other cost-sharing. However, this help is available only for those who choose a silver plan (see "Additional Help with Out-of-Pocket Health Care Costs" on page 19).

Table 9.

**Examples of Premium Tax Credits for an Individual**

Income		Premium Contribution as a Percent of Income	Example of Premium Tax Credit
Income as a Percent of Poverty	Annual Income		
138%	\$15,860	3.3%	\$4,480
150%	\$17,235	4.0%	\$4,310
200%	\$22,980	6.3%	\$3,550
250%	\$28,725	8.1%	\$2,690
300%	\$34,470	9.5%	\$1,730
400%	\$45,960	9.5%	\$630

**Note:** Based on an individual with premiums of \$5,000 and 2013 federal poverty levels.

Table 10.

**Examples of Premium Tax Credits for a Family of Four**

Income		Premium Contribution as a Percent of Income	Example of Premium Tax Credit
Income as a Percent of Poverty	Annual Income		
138%	\$32,500	3.3%	\$11,430
150%	\$35,325	4.0%	\$11,090
200%	\$47,100	6.3%	\$9,530
250%	\$58,875	8.1%	\$7,760
300%	\$70,650	9.5%	\$5,790
400%	\$94,200	9.5%	\$3,550

**Note:** Based on a family of four with premiums of \$12,500 and 2013 federal poverty levels.

## The New Health Insurance Marketplaces

The Affordable Care Act requires every state to have a new regulated insurance marketplace, or exchange, where consumers and small businesses can purchase health insurance plans and apply for help with the cost of coverage. While every state must have a new marketplace, states are taking different approaches to getting the job done. Some states are setting up their own marketplaces, other states are partnering with the federal government to take on specific tasks and functions, and in some states, the federal government will establish the new marketplaces. Regardless of the approach, every marketplace will provide important new consumer protections.

When shopping in the new marketplaces, consumers and small businesses will know what they are getting for their money. All plans sold in the marketplaces must meet certain consumer protection and quality standards so that shoppers do not end up with surprising holes in their coverage. The new marketplaces will, among other things, certify that plans meet minimum requirements, such as having sufficient provider networks, implementing user-friendly quality reporting, and using marketing materials that are fair and accurate. Insurance companies will have to clearly explain what care is covered in every plan and at what cost. This information must be presented in a standardized, consumer-friendly format. This transparency will help people shop

for the best plan for the price, *and* it will promote competition among plans. Under the Affordable Care Act, insurers that sell plans in the new marketplaces—just like plans that are sold outside the exchanges—will not be allowed to deny coverage to people with pre-existing conditions or to charge exorbitant premiums, which will keep costs down for individuals and businesses.

The new marketplaces will be a one-stop shop where consumers can enroll in health coverage. These new marketplaces will help consumers apply for the new premium tax credits, and they will calculate the amount of the tax credit that consumers will receive. The marketplaces will also help lower-income consumers apply for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other public programs. All marketplaces will use one standardized application that is designed to help consumers find out which coverage and financial assistance options they are eligible for. They will also be required to have consumer-friendly websites, as well as toll-free telephone help lines. Perhaps most importantly, every marketplace will have a network of people who are trained and certified to conduct public education and outreach, and to provide in-person assistance with the application process for premium tax credits, Medicaid, and CHIP. These assisters will also help shoppers select the insurance option that best meets their needs.

## Comprehensive Coverage under the Affordable Care Act

Under the Affordable Care Act, health insurance plans must meet a set of minimum requirements to ensure that consumers are getting the coverage they need. All plans that are sold directly to individuals and small businesses must cover a package of “essential health benefits.” The general categories of required services in this package include outpatient care, emergency care, hospitalization, prescription drugs, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, rehabilitative and habilitative care, laboratory services, preventive and wellness services, chronic disease management, and pediatric services (including dental and vision care). Together, the premium tax credits and these essential health benefit requirements will ensure that those who buy insurance in the new marketplaces will be getting *affordable*, comprehensive coverage.

## Additional Help with Out-of-Pocket Health Care Costs

The Affordable Care Act has a number of provisions that are meant to protect individuals and families from high out-of-pocket spending. Annual and lifetime dollar caps on covered benefits will no longer be permitted. This means that consumers who pay for health coverage won't run out of coverage if they develop health problems that are costly to treat. The Affordable Care Act also established caps on the amount an individual or family has to spend on out-of-pocket costs (i.e., deductibles, copayments, and co-insurance) for health services that are part of the essential benefits packages. Furthermore, additional cost-sharing assistance will be available to individuals and families with incomes up to 250 percent of poverty (about \$28,725 for an individual or \$58,875 for a family of four in 2013). This cost-sharing assistance will increase the proportion of health care costs that an individual or family's plan pays for. It will be available to people who purchase silver plans in the new health insurance marketplaces.

## Conclusion

Health reform will provide significant help to nearly 803,000 Georgians who will become eligible for premium tax credits in 2014. This assistance, along with several important new consumer protections, will allow individuals and families to purchase affordable health coverage even if they have pre-existing conditions, and even if they change jobs or experience a drop in income. This, in turn, means added economic security for Georgia's working families. As we draw closer to October 2013, when open enrollment begins, it is critical that states and the federal government work closely together to educate the public about how the new tax credits will work and to make it as simple as possible to connect people to this significant new source of help with the cost of health insurance.

## Assumptions about the Population Eligible for Premium Tax Credits

The premium tax credits are available only to uninsured people with family incomes at or above 100 percent of the federal poverty level. This is because those who crafted the health care law assumed that uninsured people with incomes below 100 percent of poverty would be enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid provides out-of-pocket spending protections and additional benefits that are important for coverage to be meaningful for people with such low incomes. If Georgia does not expand its Medicaid program, most uninsured people with family incomes below 100 percent of poverty will be left without any financial help or affordable insurance options. States that refuse to expand Medicaid, despite the generous federal support offered, will be condemning their most vulnerable residents to remain in the ranks of the uninsured.

For our analysis, we assumed that Georgia will take advantage of the opportunity to expand Medicaid to all Georgians with incomes up to 138 percent\* of the federal poverty level (\$15,860 for an individual or \$32,500 for a family of four in 2013). Under the Affordable Care Act, Georgians who are eligible for Medicaid (that is, all families with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level) will not be eligible for premium tax credits.

Our analysis also takes into account one exception to the income eligibility rules for premium tax credits: The Affordable Care Act allows any legal U.S. residents who are not eligible for Medicaid due to the Medicaid program's five-year ban rule (even if they have income below 100 percent of poverty) to receive premium tax credits. Therefore, our estimates of the number of people who will be eligible for premium tax credits do include legal residents with incomes below 138 percent of poverty who would not be eligible for Medicaid under the five-year ban rule.

---

\*Under the Affordable Care Act, the first 5 percent of income is not counted, or "disregarded." This means that the eligibility threshold for Medicaid is 138 percent of poverty, not 133 percent of poverty.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation, *2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines* (Washington: Department of Health and Human Services, January 24, 2013).

<sup>2</sup> Families USA analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, *Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2013*, using the CPS Table Creator, available online at <http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>.

## Acknowledgments

**This report was written by:**

*Elizabeth Hagan  
Intern, Health Policy  
Families USA*

*Kathleen Stoll  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Director of Health Policy  
Families USA*

*Kim Bailey  
Research Director  
Families USA*

**The following Families USA staff contributed  
to the preparation of this report:**

*Alexandra Ernst, Intern, Health Policy  
Cheryl Fish-Parcham, Deputy Director of Health Policy  
Claire McAndrew, Senior Health Policy Analyst  
Elaine Saly, Health Policy Analyst  
Ingrid VanTuinen, Deputy Director of Publications  
Rachel Strohman, Editorial Assistant  
Carla Uriona, Director of Publications  
Nancy Magill, Senior Graphic Designer*

**Data provided by:**

*The Lewin Group*



1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-628-3030

Email: [info@familiesusa.org](mailto:info@familiesusa.org)

[www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org)