



The Importance of Premium Tax Credits: Affording Health Insurance in Georgia



Currently, nearly 20 million people across the United States get help paying for their health coverage through premium tax credits (also known as advance premium tax credits, or APTCs), which they can use to purchase a plan through the health insurance marketplaces. These tax credits are a lifeline for people who would otherwise not be able to afford their health coverage or access health care. But if Congress does not act, this assistance will be cut, and millions of people will face losing their health insurance, delaying or skipping needed health care, or taking on medical debt they cannot afford.



**20
MILLION**

people across the United States get help paying for their health coverage through premium tax credits.

APTCs in America

Today, people seeking to purchase health insurance may qualify for APTCs if their household income is at least \$14,580 for an individual or \$30,000 for a family of four, they buy a plan offered on healthcare.gov or a state marketplace, and they do not have other options for affordable health coverage.¹ In light of the ongoing U.S. health care affordability crisis, and particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has acted to bolster the amount of assistance available to people in recent years, increasing the premium tax credit amounts under the American Rescue Plan Act and extending those enhancements under the Inflation Reduction Act. These actions have saved individuals and families money in insurance premiums and enabled many to cut their deductibles in half.² But those enhancements are set to expire at the end of 2025, leaving many Americans at risk for significant losses.



IMPACT ON GEORGIA FAMILIES

In 2024, **1.2 million Georgians** receive advance premium tax credits.³ The average monthly premium cost for marketplace plans is \$583, but after APTCs, the average monthly premium is \$75.*



- » The amount that people currently pay for premiums varies by age and income, but premiums for most families and individuals will **increase significantly** if the enhanced premium tax credits are allowed to expire.⁴
- » Single individuals in their mid-40s making \$30,000 would see their premiums **increase by \$1,350 per year.**
- » Couples in their early 60s earning \$80,000 would see their premiums **increase by about \$16,800 per year.**

* "2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment." The average monthly premium after APTCs solely among consumers receiving APTCs is even lower — \$52.



HOW TAX CREDITS HELP REAL PEOPLE: CASSIE'S STORY

"When Cassie Cox ended up in the emergency room in January, the Bainbridge, Georgia, resident was grateful for the Obamacare insurance policy she had recently selected for coverage in 2024.

Cox, 40, qualified for an Affordable Care Act marketplace plan with no monthly premium due to her relatively low income. And after she cut her hand severely, the 35 stitches she received in the ER led to an out-of-pocket expense of about \$300, she said."

Andy Miller, *Presidential Election Could Decide Fate of Extra Obamacare Subsidies*, KFF Health News, May 30, 2024.



CALL TO ACTION

Families from coast to coast cannot be left wondering if this critical assistance will be available to them the next time they need to renew their health insurance.

CONGRESS MUST ACT QUICKLY TO PERMANENTLY EXTEND APTC ENHANCEMENTS.

To find your elected officials, click here: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>.

For more information, contact Laura Colbert at lcolbert@healthyfuturega.org,
or Cheryl Fish-Parcham at cparcham@familiesusa.org.

Endnotes

¹ “Advance premium tax credit (APTC),” HealthCare.gov, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, accessed May 6, 2024 [https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/advanced-premium-tax-credit/#:~:text=A%20tax%20credit%20you%20can,\(or%20%E2%80%9Cpremium%E2%80%9D\)](https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/advanced-premium-tax-credit/#:~:text=A%20tax%20credit%20you%20can,(or%20%E2%80%9Cpremium%E2%80%9D).). The minimum income limits are slightly higher in Alaska and Hawaii due to those states’ poverty guidelines.

² Bernadette Fernandez, *Health Insurance Premium Tax Credit and Cost-Sharing Reductions* (Congressional Research Service, updated February 14, 2024), <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44425>; 26 U.S. Code § 36B; “2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Public Use Files: 2024 OEP State-Level Public Use File (ZIP),” U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, last modified March 22, 2024, <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/statistics-trends-reports/marketplace-products/2024-marketplace-open-enrollment-period-public-use-files>.

³ “2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment.”

⁴ Jennifer Sullivan, Allison Orris, and Gideon Lukens, *Entering Their Second Decade, Affordable Care Act Coverage Expansions Have Helped Millions, Provide the Basis for Further Progress* (Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, updated March 25, 2024), <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/entering-their-second-decade-affordable-care-act-coverage-expansions-have-helped>.



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