



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



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 ARIZONA FAMILIES

In 2024, **309,000 people in Arizona** receive advance premium tax credits.³ The average monthly premium cost for marketplace plans is \$523, but after APTCs, the average monthly premium is \$121.*



- » 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 \$13,740 per year.**

* "2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment." The average monthly premium after APTCs solely among consumers receiving APTCs is even lower — \$75.



HOW TAX CREDITS HELP REAL PEOPLE:

Neighborhood Outreach to Health (NOAH) helped a recent ASU graduate reduce the payment for her monthly insurance premium from about \$250 to just under \$50. She works part-time as she pursues a medical degree but earns too much to qualify for AHCCCS, the state's Medicaid agency.

NOAH's navigator helped her apply for coverage on the U.S. government's Health Insurance Marketplace and helped her sort through the various plans and their pricing and use the advance premium tax credit. She is now relieved to have access to affordable health care.

Like many individuals throughout the country, **a recent client of Chiricahua Community Health Centers in Douglas, Arizona**, was struggling with maintaining their healthcare needs amid inflation. But the client was relieved to learn they could lower their monthly premium with the Advanced Premium Tax Credit. The tax credit not only helped lower the client's healthcare costs, but it significantly helped their household's bottom line, allowing them to use the saved money on other expenses.



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 Cheryl Fish-Parcham at cparcham@familiesusa.org or Claudia Maldonado at claudiam@aachc.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>.



1225 New York Avenue NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005
202-628-3030 info@familiesusa.org FamiliesUSA.org facebook / FamiliesUSA twitter / @FamiliesUSA