



OKPOLICY.ORG

Oklahoma Policy Institute

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OKLAHOMA'S NEW HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

Beginning October 1 and lasting until March 31, 2014, Oklahomans without access to affordable health insurance through their employer or a government sponsored plan will be able to purchase a plan through the new Health Insurance Marketplace at www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-800-318-2596.

Also starting October 1, Oklahomans can dial 2-1-1 to get general information about the Affordable Care Act, the Health Insurance Marketplace, or where to find in-person assistance. Oklahoma Health Insurance Marketplace resources will be available online at www.211Oklahoma.org.

Important Facts to Know:

1. Coverage for the new health plans begins January 1, 2014
2. All insurance plans must cover essential benefits, including doctor visits, hospitalizations, maternity care, emergency room care, and prescriptions.
3. You might be able to get financial help to pay for a health insurance plan.
4. If you have a pre-existing condition, insurance plans can no longer deny you coverage.
5. All insurance plans will be required to show the costs and what is covered in simple language with no fine print.

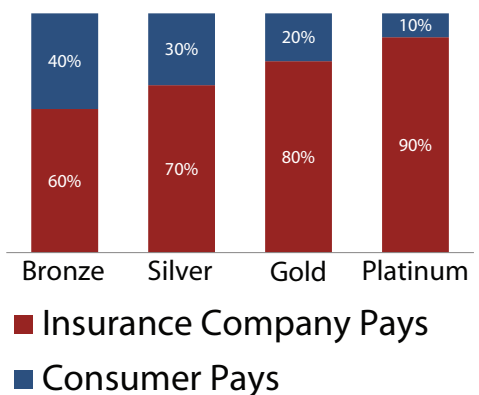
How will consumers compare plans?

The marketplace will feature four different types of health plans, known as medal plans. Plans will be available at bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels. Insurance companies will be required to at least offer the silver and gold plans in the marketplace. These plans will NOT vary in coverage but they will vary in cost, so choosing the right plan depends on how much premium and out-of-pocket costs a consumer is willing to pay.

Consumers selecting a bronze or silver plan will pay lower premiums but will experience higher out-of-pocket costs in the form of deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance when they get care. Consumers selecting gold and platinum plans will pay higher premiums but lower out-of-pocket expenses.

Individuals under the age of 30 will also have the option to purchase a catastrophic plan, which will include three free office visits and preventive services but will otherwise require enrollees to meet a high deductible.

Payments for Care under Marketplace Plans



How will Oklahomans get financial assistance to purchase health insurance?

Financial assistance will be available for income eligible consumers. The types of assistance available include:

- 1. Advance Premium Assistance Tax Credits** that subsidize premium costs for individuals and families with incomes between 100–400 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). These tax credits will be available when purchasing insurance in the marketplace.
- 2. Cost-Sharing Reductions** which lower out-of-pocket costs for deductibles, co-pays, and co-insurance for individual and families who purchase a silver health plan and earn up to 250 percent of the FPL.



Since Oklahoma lawmakers have opted not to accept federal funds for extending Medicaid eligibility, Oklahomans with incomes below the federal poverty level will be left without assistance for purchasing health insurance. Those who do not qualify for traditional Medicaid in Oklahoma and have incomes below 100 percent of the FPL will not be required to have health insurance coverage for 2014.

How will Oklahomans get help finding insurance on the marketplace?

Oklahomans can get help finding insurance on the marketplace from:

- 1. Navigators** are comprehensively trained entities that will assist consumers with identifying what subsidies they qualify for and enrolling in a health plan. In Oklahoma, navigators will be Cardon Outreach, Oklahoma Community Health Centers, Inc., and Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Inc.
- 2. Certified Application Counselors** are organizations, typically community based non-profits, who will educate consumers about the marketplace and assist with completing an application for coverage.
- 3. Agents and Brokers** are paid by insurance companies to sell coverage and will be available to enroll consumers in health plans through the marketplace.

More information can be found at:

- www.healthcare.gov or dialing 1-800-318-2596
- www.211Oklahoma.org or dialing 2-1-1