

SHOP FAQ

Q: What are the benefits of getting coverage through the Federally Facilitated SHOP Marketplace?

A: If small employers meet certain requirements, they may be eligible to claim the Small Business Health Care Tax Credit. The tax credit is worth up to 50 percent of an employer's contributions to premiums for covering employees' coverage and their dependents.

For an employer to qualify for the federal small business tax credits, the employer must: (1) have fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees; (2) pay employees an average annual wage of less than \$50,000, and (3) pay at least half of the insurance premiums.

Q: Are small employers required to buy a health plan for their employees through SHOP?

A: No. Small employers are not required to purchase health plans for their employees. However, if they chose to buy health coverage, they may either buy health insurance through the SHOP or through the traditional insurance market. Note that tax credits are only available to coverage purchased through SHOP.

Q: Is there a cost to participate in the SHOP?

A: There is no fee for small employers to use SHOP. However, the SHOP may charge insurers a fee to sell their products through SHOP.

Q: How do small employers participate in SHOP?

A: For 2014, small employers must enroll directly through an agent, broker or through an insurance company that offers plans through the SHOP. The agent, broker or insurer will help the employer fill out an application for SHOP eligibility and send it in to the Federally Facilitated SHOP. Employers are not required to wait to hear back before enrolling employees. The application is needed only for qualifying for a Small Business Tax Credit.

For 2015, enrollment in SHOP will be available online at healthcare.gov. In addition, starting in 2015 SHOP will allow employees to have a choice of plans, and the employer will make a single monthly payment to the insurer.

Q: Where can I get more information or help filling out the Federally Facilitated SHOP application?

A: Small employers that want further information and assistance can work with an agent, broker, Navigator, or other assister, or go directly to an insurance company with plans certified by the SHOP. They can also call the SHOP Small Employer Call Center at 1-800-706-7893 between the hours of 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Eastern Time. To find an assister in Wyoming, please visit Localhelp.HealthCare.gov.