



Health Care Reform Information For Individuals

Individual Responsibility (the “Insurance Mandate”)

- ◆ With few exceptions, federal law requires virtually all Wyoming residents to have health insurance beginning January 1, 2014. If an individual does not have health insurance coverage meeting minimum federal requirements by January 1, 2014, the individual and any dependents will be subject to a tax penalty.
- ◆ Insurers will be required to sell health insurance to any person who requests coverage regardless of the individual’s health status and cannot impose a pre-existing condition exclusion.

Tax Credits for Insurance Premiums (Subsidies)

- ◆ Many Wyoming residents will be eligible for an insurance premium tax credit to offset their insurance premium. The tax credit will pay a percentage of the total premium based on a sliding scale for individuals earning between 100% and 400% of federal poverty level. The subsidies are only available to individuals in this income range who purchase health insurance through the exchange.
- ◆ The federal poverty level range of 100% - 400% for 2013, is from \$11,490—\$45,960 for an individual and \$23,550—\$94,200 for a family of four.
- ◆ In addition, individuals between 100% and 400% of federal poverty level may be eligible to receive subsidies to offset out-of-pocket expenses, such as deductibles and co-pays.

How to Purchase Insurance

- ◆ Two mechanisms are available to individuals to purchase health insurance:
 - 1) The Federal Insurance Marketplace. Through the Marketplace individuals may purchase insurance, determine qualification for tax subsidies or determine qualification for Medicaid. Federal subsidies are only available through the federal Marketplace. The Marketplace will be on-line but other means of enrollment will be possible.
 - 2) Traditional Insurance Market. The existing market of insurance will still exist. You can contact an agent, insurance company, or use other means to purchase health insurance as you would today. When purchasing health insurance in the traditional market, ensure that your policy meets the federal minimum requirement to comply with the individual mandate and avoid the tax penalty. Federal subsidies are not available for insurance purchased outside of the federal Marketplace.



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When To Purchase Health Insurance (Open Enrollment)

- ◆ The initial open enrollment period for purchasing health insurance for 2014 begins October 1, 2013, and ends March 31, 2014. Without special circumstances, this will be the only time you may purchase health insurance for 2014.
- ◆ After the first year, open enrollment will run from October 15th through December 7th.
- ◆ Special enrollment periods will apply if a person experiences a “triggering event,” such as gaining or becoming a dependent, loss of minimal essential health insurance coverage or becoming newly eligible for premium tax credits.

Consumer Assistance

- ◆ Consumer Assistance will be available for individuals to purchase through the federal marketplace. The federal government will establish a consumer hot-line and establish in-person assistance through a Navigator program. More information will be posted on the Wyoming Insurance Department’s website as it becomes available.
- ◆ The Wyoming Insurance Department will continue to be available to help Wyoming consumers with questions or complaints about their insurance.

How Will Medicaid/Medicaid Beneficiaries be Affected?

- ◆ For information on Medicaid, visit the Wyoming Department of Health website at: <http://www.health.wyo.gov/default.aspx>
- ◆ For information on Medicare and the Affordable Care Act, visit: <http://www.medicare.gov/about-us/affordable-care-act/affordable-care-act.html>

Additional Information

Additional information on health care reform is available through the following websites:

- ◆ Wyoming Insurance Department: <http://doi.wyo.gov/> or toll free at 1-(800)-438-5768
- ◆ Information on the Federal Healthcare Reform: www.healthcare.gov
- ◆ Internal Revenue Service—Information on the Penalty: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Questions-and-Answers-on-the-Individual-Shared-Responsibility-Provision>
- ◆ The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation—General Information on Health Insurance and Health Care Reform: <http://healthreform.kff.org/>

The ACA is a federal law that impacts Wyoming and its citizens. The State of Wyoming has filed a lawsuit against the federal government in opposition of the law and currently maintains that position. This information is solely for informational purposes and to let Wyoming citizens know how they will be impacted by federal law. The DOI does not endorse or maintain any external links referenced above.