Part II – American Rescue Plan Act: Savings and Tools

Washington Health Benefit Exchange
Stakeholder Webinar
April 21, 2021

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Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Partnerships

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Associate Director - Outreach
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Webinar Topics

Part I: Exchange Impacts - slides and recorded webinar available at: https://www.wahbexchange.org/new-customers/coverage-basics/american-rescue-plan-faqs/ (bottom of page)
  • American Rescue Plan Act - overview
  • Implementation – timeline and key dates
  • Frequently Asked Questions

Part II: Savings and Tools Available
  • ARPA savings and resources available to help people understand the savings available
  • Exchange communications
  • Washington Healthplanfinder tools

Part III
  • Monday, May 3 @ noon
  • Call to action

All webinars are being recorded. Links to the webinar and the slides will be available online at the link above within 2 business days.
Reminder: Special Enrollment Period Through August 15, 2021

• Special enrolment period through August 15, 2021; until then individuals and families can sign up for health insurance coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder

• Washington Apple Health enrollment is available year-round

• Our statewide enrollment assisters can help. There are over 900 navigators located in your community at clinics and community support organizations, over 1600 state-certified brokers that can provide plan recommendations, and 11 enrollment centers across the state

• Our application specialists are also available at the Customer Support Center (1-855-923-4633; TTY: 1-855-627-9604) to help you get covered and can provide assistance in over 200 languages.

• Virtual help details available at:
  • https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/_content/faq/virtual-help-details.html
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Overview Revisited
ARPA- Improves affordability of Exchange plans by increasing federal premium subsidies

• 2021 & 2022 Increased APTC
  • Enhances premium subsidies for those currently eligible
    • For those with incomes under 400% FPL ($50k for single households; $103k for family of 4) APTC subsidies dramatically higher
    • For those with incomes under 150% FPL ($19k for single households; $39k for family of 4) can get a silver benchmark plan for close to $0

• Ends the subsidy cliff- for the first-time for households over 400% FPL will be eligible for premium subsidies (premium spend capped at 8.5% income)

• 2021 Additional Savings if Getting UI
  • Maximum available advanced premium tax credits (APTCs) and cost-sharing reductions (CSRs) provided to those receiving or approved to receive UI benefits for any 1 week during 2021
  • Must be enrolled in a silver plan to benefit from cost-sharing reduction subsidies
  • Customers getting UI can enroll in a Cascade/Standard Silver plan with a $150 deductible for premium as low as $1 per month
ARPA Premium Subsidies + Silver Plan Cost-Sharing Reductions = Big Savings

• Subsidized customers currently enrolled in a Bronze plan with a high deductible may be able to reduce their out-of-pocket costs by selecting Silver or Gold plans that cover more costs, with a minimal or no premium increase.

• Subsidized customers earning up to 250% FPL (~$31k for single households, ~$64k for family of 4) who select a Silver plan get cost-sharing reduction subsidies that further lower their out-of-pocket costs.

• For example, deductibles in Silver cascade/standard plans for subsidized are:
  • $150 for those up to 150% FPL
  • $750 for those 151%-200% FPL
  • $2,000 for those 201-250% FPL
  • Each of these plans also include reduced cost-sharing amounts
I received unemployment income in January 2021 but not since. Do I still qualify for the additional ARPA assistance?

- Yes. You qualify if you received or were approved to receive unemployment income during any week in 2021. You do not have to be receiving unemployment income when you apply for health coverage.

- For example, if you received unemployment insurance January 1 through January 7, 2021 and apply for health coverage June 1, 2021, you will qualify for the maximum amount of premium tax credits for 2021.

- The additional premium assistance for individuals who are approved for or receive unemployment income in 2021 will expire December 31, 2021

- In 2022, you may still be eligible for expanded premium assistance provided under the American Rescue Plan to residents regardless of unemployment
Will everyone’s premium be reduced?

• **No.** Not everyone will qualify for monthly premium reductions.

• Some people under 400% FPL will continue to not qualify for premium assistance (includes those in “family glitch” and those without federally recognized immigration status)

• Some people over 400%FPL who would be newly eligible for premium assistance already pay less than 8.5% of their income on premiums.
ARPA - How many Washingtonians will be helped?

- Helps ~25k uninsured get covered through Washington Healthplanfinder
- Helps lower premiums for ~75% of current Exchange customers
- Provides an additional $250M annually in federal APTCs for Washingtonians

Table 3: Range of Estimated Impacts of ARP – On-Exchange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Take-Up from Uninsured</th>
<th>Percent of Enrollees with Subsidized Coverage On-Exchange</th>
<th>Change in Average Subsidy</th>
<th>Change in Average Net Premium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>13,600 - 20,300</td>
<td>74.9% - 75.4%</td>
<td>26.8% - 33.3%</td>
<td>-22.9% to -26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>14,700 - 36,000</td>
<td>74.9% - 75.4%</td>
<td>17.2% - 33.1%</td>
<td>-24.1% to -28.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ARPA – When will Washingtonians be helped?**

**Implementation: Federal Marketplace (FFM) v. Washington (HBE)**

- Special enrollment period for FFM and HBE are aligned – both extended through August 15
- Savings effective January 1, 2021
  - Customers enrolled in 2021 before systems updates updated will receive additional savings for those months when they file their 2021 taxes
- FFM requires all customers to take action to get savings, and is implementing system updates in phases
  - Starting April 1 – new and existing customers can visit federal site, act, and have APTC savings applied
  - Additional savings for customers receiving UI not implemented until Summer
  - Customers can switch health plans within existing carrier or switch carriers.
- HBE automatically updating accounts for all eligible customers, and making all system updates at once
  - May 6 – *Washington Healthplanfinder* updated
  - May 7-15 – accounts updated for existing customers (will receive notice with updated savings)
  - Customers can switch health plans within existing carrier
How can existing customers switch plans if desired after they receive additional ARPA savings?

• Currently enrolled customers not currently getting premium tax credits who want to switch plans after they receive additional ARPA savings can sign into their Washington Healthplanfinder account and change their plan.

• Currently enrolled customers currently getting premium tax credits who want to switch plans within their same carrier after they receive additional ARPA savings can contact the Customer Support Center, a broker, or navigator for assistance.

• Currently enrolled customers interested in switching plans should contact their carrier to find out if any amounts paid towards the 2021 deductible or out-of-pocket maximum will transfer to their new plan

• If switch plan before the 15th of the month, coverage begins on the 1st of the next month. If switch plan after the 15th of the month, coverage begins on the 1st of the following month
  • For example, if switch on June 10, updated coverage will begin on July 1. If switch on June 16, updated coverage will begin on August 1
Key Washington Implementation Dates

• April
  • Notification sent to currently enrolled customers
  • Most do not need to take action to receive new savings (automatically applied between May 7-15)

• May 6
  • System updated to reflect new savings
  • New consumers must sign up by May 15 for reduced cost coverage starting June 1

• May 7-15
  • New savings automatically applied for qualifying current enrollees; notification will be sent after account updated
  • Applies to June coverage on go-forward basis
    • Customers enrolled in 2021 before June will receive additional savings for those months when they file their 2021 taxes

• Thru August 15
  • Special enrollment period for (1) new consumers to sign up (including those currently uninsured, in off-Exchange market, or those losing employer coverage); (2) existing customers who want to switch plans
Actions needed (by when) to receive maximum benefit of new ARPA savings

• Customers sent notifications from Washington Healthplanfinder with instructions in early April

• Most current customers will not need to take action to receive new ARPA savings

• Current customers who need to update their accounts by May 5 for any applicable ARPA savings to be automatically applied to their June coverage:
  • Those who have not reported any income information
  • Those who are not taking the maximum APTC amount in advance
  • Those who have not given the Exchange permission to update their account

• Additional groups of interest among the currently enrolled:
  • Those who have gotten/are getting UI but may not have reported it

• Additional groups of interest among the not currently enrolled:
  • Those who are uninsured may already qualify for free or low-cost coverage. Those who want to sign up have until Aug. 15 to do so (Washington Apple Health coverage is available year-round).
  • Those receiving health coverage off-Exchange may qualify for additional ARPA savings. Those who want to sign up have until Aug. 15 to do so
How to access notifications from your account in Washington Healthplanfinder

- Customer logs in to their Washington Healthplanfinder account
- Customer selects Messages at the top right of their Account Home Dashboard
How to access notifications from your account in Washington Healthplanfinder

American Rescue Plan Act and You!

Dear [Name],

Because of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, you may be able to get more savings and lower costs on your health coverage. More Washingtonians may qualify for tax credits paying for health coverage, even those who weren’t eligible for help in the past.

To receive these cost saving benefits, make sure the following is up to date on your Washington Healthplanfinder account:

- Your income
- Your unemployment income (with correct start and/or end date)
- Your contact information

If your information is currently up to date, you do not need to take action to receive additional benefits.

We are updating our system to provide an easy, seamless experience. We will be sending you updated premium information between May 8 - May 15, 2021.

For more information, read our Frequently Asked Questions on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. You can also contact an Exchange certified Broker, Navigator, enrollment center or the Customer Support Center between 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at 1-855-923-4633; TTY: 855-627-9604
Complete the following steps:

• Sign into your Washington Healthplanfinder account.
• Select Report a Change from your Account navigation menu.
• Once on the Report your Changes page select Yes to the question “I would like to apply for Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits, Cost-Sharing Reductions or Washington Apple Health”.

• Continue through each page of the application and update details needed to apply for tax credits.
• ESign and submit your application to receive updated eligibility.

If you complete the above by May 1, 2021, Washington Healthplanfinder will automatically update your account between May 7-15. You will receive a notice from Washington Healthplanfinder afterwards that reflects your updated premium amount (if you qualify for additional savings).
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Savings & Tools
ARPA Savings – overview

• The exact amount someone’s premiums will go down depends on:
  • Where they live (plan rates vary across counties)
  • What plan they select (federal subsidies are tied to specific benchmark plans)
  • How old they are (older customers, who pay higher premiums receive the largest subsidies)
  • Household income (subsidy levels are scaled to income)
## ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range (Percent of FPL)</th>
<th>Range of Maximum Income Contribution (Percent of Income)</th>
<th>Under Current Law</th>
<th>Under Section 9661</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 133</td>
<td>2.07</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133 – 150</td>
<td>3.10 – 4.14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 – 200</td>
<td>4.14 – 6.52</td>
<td>0 – 2.0</td>
<td>0 – 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 – 250</td>
<td>6.52 – 8.33</td>
<td>2.0 – 4.0</td>
<td>4.0 – 6.0</td>
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<td>250 – 300</td>
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<td>400+</td>
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Source: Congressional Budget Office.

### Table:

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<th>Household Size</th>
<th>% FPL</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>100%</th>
<th>138%</th>
<th>150%</th>
<th>200%</th>
<th>213%</th>
<th>250%</th>
<th>266%</th>
<th>300%</th>
<th>322%</th>
<th>400%</th>
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<td>$24,980</td>
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<td>$42,000</td>
<td>$58,600</td>
<td>$64,400</td>
<td>$85,200</td>
<td>$91,800</td>
<td>$107,800</td>
<td>$117,000</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
<td>$141,800</td>
<td>$175,600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows the range of maximum income contribution for different household sizes and income percentages for individuals eligible for the Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) under current law and under Section 9661 of the Economic Growth andTax Relief Reconciliation Act (EGTRRA) of 2001. The table includes income ranges and the corresponding percentage of income contribution for different income levels. The data is sourced from the Congressional Budget Office.
ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

On average, how much will Exchange enrollees be helped?

Wakely Case Study:

• Overall Exchange subsidized enrollment is expected to increase from 60% to nearly 75%
• Enrollment increases driven by higher uptake among 400%-600% FPL
• Significant reductions in the premium amount customers pay
• Findings available at: Analysis on the Impact of the American Recovery Act: A Case Study | Wakely
ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

On average, how much will Exchange enrollees be helped?

![Chart 3: 2021 On-Exchange Premiums by FPL and Funding Source](chart.png)
ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

How much will I specifically helped?

• The exact amount premiums will go down depends on where an individual lives, their age (older customers, who pay higher premiums receive the largest subsidies), and their income.

• Calculator developed by KFF to illustrates ARPA savings amounts

ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

Illustrative savings examples based on King County rates:

- A 27-year-old making around $25,000 per year can get nearly $300 in monthly savings to apply to their premium (an increase of over $100). The savings amount increases with age

- A 60-year-old couple making around $35,000 per year can get over $1,500 in monthly savings to apply to their premium (an increase of over $130)

- A family of four making $55,000 per year can now get over $1,000 in monthly savings to apply to their premium (an increase of nearly $350)

- A family of four making $110,000 per year can now get over $400 in monthly savings to apply to their premiums. Before ARPA, this family was not eligible for financial help.
ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

Illustrative savings example based on 30-year-old in Spokane (160%FPL):

- Currently in standard bronze plan
- With ARPA – additional $72/month in premium subsidy
- Could stay in bronze and pay close to $0
- Could switch to silver for more coverage for half the premium cost of their pre-ARPA plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Premiums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plan</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Full Premium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Premium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost to use coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Care Visit Copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Care Visit Copay</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Out of Pocket Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of Pocket Max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Tools

• After May 6, the anonymous browsing feature in Washington Healthplanfinder will be updated to reflect the new ARPA savings amounts.

• This will permit those who want to quickly view available plan options/prices to do so without submitting an application.

• From wahealthplanfinder.org select “browse and compare plans”.

Homepage: https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org

(beware of look-alike websites!)
Anonymous Browsing

Enter your details to browse plans

SELECT THE PLAN YEAR:

2021

LET'S GET STARTED!

ZIP *
E.g. 98203

COUNTY *
Select an Option

WANT DETAILED PRICING?

PRIMARY APPLICANT

DATE OF BIRTH *
E.g. 09/01/1980

SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH:

MALE
FEMALE

TOBACCO
Check the box if you have regularly used tobacco products in the past 6 months. Vape and e-cigarette products are not included.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

ESTIMATED HOUSEHOLD INCOME *
E.g. $30,500

FREQUENCY *
ANNUALLY
MONTHLY

Add Household Member

Notice:
This information is used to estimate your eligibility and cost for coverage, including any financial help. Once you apply, you'll receive your actual eligibility and costs.
Additional Resources

• Online partner toolkit
  • https://www.wahbexchange.org/partners/partners-toolkit/
• Additional handouts (e.g., ARPA overview; concise savings messaging; COBRA coverage and Washington Healthplanfinder coverage)
• Coordinated outreach with key implementation partners (carriers, ESD, assisters, etc.)
• Data driven marketing campaign (at federal and state levels)
• Ongoing updates to corporate website (FAQs; Job loss page)
• Videos, Facebook live events, town halls
Next Steps
Next Steps

• Help spread the word to individuals who need to act by May 5 to automatically receive the additional savings starting in June

• Event planning leading up to mid-May

• Reach out to Joan and Mary if you would like us to come present this information to another audience or there is a particular material that would be helpful to you in spreading the word
  • Mary.McHale@wahbexchange.org
  • Joan.Altman@wahbexchange.org

• Attend final Webinar in series (call to action)
  • Monday, May 3 @ noon
  • Sign-up information to be distributed
Appendix
If I am eligible for employer-sponsored insurance, am I eligible for the new premium savings under ARPA?

- If you are eligible for employer-sponsored health insurance with a premium that costs less than 9.83% or less of your household income, then you will not be eligible for premium tax credits (Note: ARPA did not fix the ‘family glitch’).
- If you are eligible for employer-sponsored health insurance that is more expensive, you may be eligible for enhanced tax credits under the American Rescue Plan.
I am losing my employer sponsored coverage; how do I take advantage of the new savings under ARPA and avoid a gap in coverage?

• To review your plan options and sign up: visit wahealthplanfinder.org; complete the application; report that you have a ‘loss of other coverage’; enter your employer coverage end date (last day you will have employer coverage), review your plan options, and enroll.

• To help avoid a gap in health coverage, sign up for coverage before your employer-coverage end date. For example, if your employer coverage ends May 31st, sign-up in May for coverage that will start June 1st.

• When you lose your employer coverage, you typically have up to 60 days before or after your employer coverage end date to sign up for coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder. If it is more than 60 days since your employer coverage end date, you can still sign up through August 15 using the current special enrollment period.

• For more information visit: https://www.wahbexchange.org/loss-of-job/. 
How does COBRA coverage compare to *Washington Healthplanfinder* coverage?

- The biggest drawback with COBRA is usually the cost for laid-off workers, which can be thousands of dollars a month. ARPA addresses this through September.

- Those who lose their employer sponsored coverage can keep their current doctors and health-care providers through COBRA. If someone has already met their deductible for the year, maintaining workplace insurance could be an affordable option.
  - When your COBRA assistance runs out, you may be eligible for a special enrollment period to enroll in coverage through *Washington Healthplanfinder*.

- Those who lose employer coverage can also find a plan on *Washington Healthplanfinder*
  - Will likely qualify for free or very low-cost coverage through *Washington Healthplanfinder especially if they* collected unemployment insurance during at least 1 week in 2021.
  - Can search available plans by preferred health care provider.
  - Can enroll in silver plan – with minimal premium and low out-of-pocket expenses.
  - As a result, options through *Washington Healthplanfinder* plan may be a better deal