Many people in Washington are experiencing significant disruption in their lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including loss of jobs and health coverage. Through the Washington Healthplanfinder at wahealthplanfinder.org or the mobile app WAPlanfinder, individuals can receive free help applying or updating their information for health coverage.

Q: I am uninsured (or soon to be uninsured), can I get coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder?

A: Washington Healthplanfinder will determine if you qualify for Washington Apple Health coverage, which is available year-round, or qualified health plan coverage, which is available during an open enrollment period and during the year if experiencing a qualifying event.

Find a Navigator, Broker, or Enrollment Center at www.wahealthplanfinder.org/content/find-expert-advice.html or on the WAPlanfinder app.

Q: How do I find coverage for myself or my family through Washington Healthplanfinder?

A: Washington Healthplanfinder asks questions that are used to determine in real time your eligibility for public and commercial qualified health plan coverage options. You receive your eligibility as soon as you submit the application. Any needed documents can be uploaded through your mobile device. SmartPlanFinder is an online tool that can help you find a plan that covers preferred providers and prescriptions.

Qualified Health Plan Coverage: You may be eligible for financial assistance through federal subsidies. Washington Healthplanfinder will calculate if you qualify for subsidies that lower your premiums and cost-sharing. Insurers include: BridgeSpan, Regence, Coordinated Care, Delta Dental, Dentegra, Kaiser Permanente, LifeWise, Molina, PacifiCare, Premera, and Providence. Depending on where you live, you will depend on your options.

Washington Apple Health: Washington Healthplanfinder will determine if you qualify for no cost or low-cost care through Washington Apple Health. Apple Health can be a temporary coverage option until you return to work. It is important to update your application as your situation changes. Washington Apple Health insurers: Aetna, Group Health Cooperative, Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), Coordinated Care, Molina, and UnitedHealthCare.

Q: I recently lost my employer coverage, how quickly do I need to act to get coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder?

A: You have 60 days of your employer coverage end date to enroll in coverage through WAHealthplanfinder.org or WAPlanfinder app. Washington Apple Health coverage is available year round if you qualify.

Reporting loss of coverage: Washington Healthplanfinder will guide you through reporting your change in coverage. This can be done entirely online. You can report your loss of employer coverage in Washington Healthplanfinder up to two months before it ends. This will help you avoid gaps in coverage.

COBRA: Before enrolling in COBRA, review your coverage options. Washington Healthplanfinder can provide affordable options to maintain coverage. If you enroll in COBRA and your employer stops helping pay for your COBRA premiums, report this change of income. This can open a special enrollment period. If you enroll in COBRA and decide to end your COBRA coverage early, it is not a change that opens a special enrollment period.

Tip: Use SmartPlanFinder to help choose a plan that covers your existing providers and prescriptions.

Q: I recently lost my job. What are my coverage options?

A: Job loss could make you newly eligible for no cost or low-cost coverage through Washington Apple Health. Report your current income when applying for coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder.

Note: If you also lost coverage from your employer, this opens a special enrollment period for you to shop for a plan. Plan selection must occur within 60 days of the qualifying life event.

Coverage Start Date: Washington Apple Health coverage starts the month you enroll and can typically be used within 24-hours to obtain care or prescriptions.

Tip: Washington Apple Health can help with recent unpaid medical bills up to 3 months old, if you meet eligibility requirements.

Q: I am employed, but my work hours have been cut back. What are my coverage options?

A: A reduction of work hours could make you newly eligible for no cost or low-cost coverage through Washington Apple Health. Report your current income when applying for coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder or WAPlanfinder mobile app.

Have employer coverage: Even if you have employer coverage, you may be eligible for no cost or low-cost coverage through Washington Apple Health. This program coordinates with your employer to help lower your costs.

Have Qualified Health Plan coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder: Report the change of income, you may qualify for extra financial help.

Tip: Update your Washington Healthplanfinder account as your circumstances change (example: your household income has changed).

Q: I am furloughed / on unpaid leave. What are my coverage options?

A: Washington Apple Health can be a temporary coverage option until you return to work. Apply for coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder.

Reporting income when on furloughed/ unpaid leave: Enter your employer information and enter an income amount of "$0.01" (if you enter $0 as your income you will not be able to proceed)

Employer Coverage: Even if you have employer coverage, you may be eligible for no cost or low-cost coverage through Washington Apple Health. This program coordinates with your employer to help lower your costs.

Tip: Update your Washington Healthplanfinder account as your circumstances change (example: you return to work).

Q: I already have coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder, but am having a hard time affording it because of a loss of income. Am I eligible for extra financial help?

A: Keep your account up to date with your current income. You may be eligible for no cost or low-cost care through Washington Apple Health, or more financial help paying for your qualified health plan coverage.