



# Part I – American Rescue Plan Act: Exchange Impacts

Washington Health Benefit Exchange  
Stakeholder Webinar  
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# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Webinar Topics

## Part I: Exchange Impacts

- American Rescue Plan Act - overview
- Implementation – timeline and key dates
- Frequently Asked Questions

## Part II

- Wednesday April 21 @ noon
- Savings & Tools Available

## Part III

- Monday, May 3 @ noon
- Call to action

*All webinars are being recorded. The webinar link and slides will be available online on our corporate website within 2 business days.*

# American Rescue Plan Act Overview



# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – overview

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) signed
  - Historic expansion of Affordable Care Act
- Key health coverage related provisions
  - Enhanced and extended federal subsidies to Exchange customers
  - Expanded Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months
  - Provides full COBRA premium assistance (April 1 –Sept 30 only)
  - Provides additional stimulus payment & extends unemployment compensation
- Focus today on enhanced and extended federal subsidies available to Exchange customers in 2021 and 2022

# ARPA - enhanced and extended federal subsidies

- Higher Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC) = Lower premiums for those who enroll in Exchange coverage through *Washington Healthplanfinder*
  - Reduces the share of income customers are expected to contribute towards the premium
- Expands APTC for those currently receiving subsidies and extends APTC to those over 400% who have not been receiving subsidies. Customers must report their income to receive this assistance (2021 & 2022)
- People who report getting UI benefits for at least 1 week in 2021, will receive maximum available federal premium and cost-sharing assistance, regardless of projected or actual annual income (2021 only)
- People who would typically owe money to IRS when they file their 2020 taxes for an APTC overpayment in 2020 are receiving payment forgiveness from IRS (2021 only)
  - Federal guidance received last week

# ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

- 2021 & 2022 Increased APTC
  - Enhanced subsidies under 400% FPL (applicable percentages lowered)
  - Extends subsidies to over 400% (caps premium spend at 8.5% income)
- 2021 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
  - Treated like up to 150% FPL, *regardless of income*

Income Range (Percent of FPL)	Range of Maximum Income Contribution (Percent of Income)	
	Under Current Law <sup>a</sup>	Under Section 9661
100 – 133	2.07	0
133 – 150	3.10 – 4.14	0
150 – 200	4.14 – 6.52	0 – 2.0
200 – 250	6.52 – 8.33	2.0 – 4.0
250 – 300	8.33 – 9.83	4.0 – 6.0
300 – 400	9.83	6.0 – 8.5
400+	--	8.5

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

# ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

## How many Washingtonians will be helped?

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

## How much will Exchange enrollees be helped?

- Significant premium reductions for those who qualify
- 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
  - <https://www.wahbexchange.org/new-customers/coverage-basics/american-rescue-plan-faqs/health-insurance-marketplace-calculator/>

# 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

- ARPA & Cascade/Standard Plans

- Cascade/standard plans, available in every county, offer deductibles that are on average \$1,000 lower than other coverage on *Washington Healthplanfinder* and provide more access to first-dollar services
- Customers at 200% FPL (\$25,560) can get Cascade/standard silver plan with a \$750 deductible for <\$45/mo (nearly 70% percent decrease)
- Customers reporting UI can enroll in a Cascade/Standard Silver plan with a \$150 deductible for premium as low as \$1 per month

Change in Monthly CC Silver Premium Under American Rescue Plan (ARP)							
		27 yr old		40 yr old		60 yr old	
Income	FPL	Current Law	Post ARP	Current Law	Post ARP	Current Law	Post ARP
\$19,200	150%	\$ 67	\$ 1	\$ 67	\$ 1	\$ 68	\$ 2
\$25,560	200%	\$ 139	\$ 43	\$ 140	\$ 43	\$ 140	\$ 44
\$31,920	250%	\$ 222	\$ 107	\$ 222	\$ 107	\$ 222	\$ 107
\$38,280	300%	\$ 306	\$ 192	\$ 314	\$ 192	\$ 314	\$ 192
\$51,000	400%	\$ 306	\$ 306	\$ 373	\$ 361	\$ 419	\$ 362
\$63,780	500%	\$ 306	\$ 306	\$ 373	\$ 373	\$ 792	\$ 453

*\*All premiums are 2021 rates for King Co, based on 2021 Federal Poverty Level*

# ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTCs) & Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs)

- 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 (~\$32,000 a year) 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%
    - Each of these plans also include reduced cost-sharing amounts

# ARPA- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) details

- Who is not helped?
  - Individuals not eligible for APTC (includes those in “family glitch”, and those without federally recognized immigration status)
  - Individuals who continue to face affordability barriers even after extra help
- How does a state subsidy (included in SB 5377) complement the federal subsidy?
  - State bill maximizes available federal funding— requires customers take all available APTCs before receiving any state premium assistance.
  - State subsidies are scalable and would help address gap populations
  - State subsidies can help lessen the impact for customers when the federal APTC enhancements expire
- Could the federal assistance be extended?
  - Congress would need to act to extend the APTC enhancements beyond 2022
  - Challenging federal environment given other fiscal considerations and policy priorities

# ARPA - 2020 APTC Repayment Forgiveness

- ARPA suspends APTC reconciliation requirements for tax year 2020
  - The pandemic and related changes in eligibility rules made it difficult to accurately predict income and calculate APTC amounts for 2020
  - Taxpayers who have already filed their 2020 tax return and who have excess APTC for 2020 do not need to file an amended tax return or contact the IRS. **The IRS will reduce the excess APTC repayment amount to zero with no further action needed by the taxpayer.**
  - The IRS will reimburse people who have already repaid any excess APTC on their 2020 tax return.
  - Taxpayers who received a letter about a missing Form 8962 should disregard the letter if they have excess APTC for 2020.
  - The Exchange is updating our online FAQs with information received in federal guidance last week, and on an ongoing basis as more guidance is released.

# American Rescue Plan Act Implementation



# ARPA Implementation Overview

- Working with federal and state partner on system updates
- Have distributed additional information to customers through correspondence
- Updating *Washington Healthplanfinder* in early May - eligible customers will see price reductions for June coverage
- Most customers will not have to take any action for the updated amounts to take effect, and eligible customers will receive any remaining 2021 benefits they are entitled to when they file their 2021 taxes
- Partnering with ESD to reach individuals receiving received unemployment compensation (UI) benefits in 2021
- Additional outreach planning underway

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

- Special enrollment period for FFM and HBE are aligned – both extended through August 15
- 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 (savings applied to June coverage)
  - Customers can switch health plans within existing carrier
    - If switch plan before the 15th of the month, your coverage will begin on the 1st of the next month. If switch plan after the 15th of the month, your coverage will begin 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
    - Currently enrolled customers interested in switching to a new plan 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

# Key Washington Implementation Dates

- **April**

- Notification to currently enrolled customers
- Most will 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
- 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 by contacting a Broker, Navigator, or the Call Center for assistance

# Consumer Impacts

Who	Do You Need To Take Action	When
<b>Currently Uninsured</b>	<b>Yes.</b> You need to enroll in coverage through <i>Washington Healthplanfinder</i> to receive the new ARPA benefits.	<b>Now through August 15<sup>th</sup>.</b> You are eligible for help now and if you sign up by May 15 will begin seeing enhanced ARPA subsidies applied to your premiums beginning in June.

# Consumer Impacts

Who	Do You Need To Take Action	When
<b>Currently Off-Exchange</b>	<b>Yes.</b> You need to enroll in coverage through <i>Washington Healthplanfinder</i> to receive the new ARPA benefits.	<b>Now through Now through August 15<sup>th</sup>.</b> You are eligible for help now and if you sign up by May 15 will begin seeing enhanced ARPA subsidies applied to your premiums beginning in June.

# Consumer Impacts

<b>Who</b>	<b>Do You Need To Take Action</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Currently Enrolled – Have <u>Not</u> Reported Income</b>	<b>Yes.</b> You must apply for assistance and report your income to receive the enhanced ARPA subsidies	<b>Now.</b> The Exchange will be automatically applying the enhanced subsidies to customers' premiums in May if they have reported income by May 1 and are eligible. By reporting income now, you'll be able to take advantage of the benefits beginning on your June bill.

# Consumer Impacts

<b>Who</b>	<b>Do You Need To Take Action</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Currently Enrolled – Eligible for UI in 2021 – Have Not Reported UI</b>	<b>Yes.</b> You must report the amount of UI you have received, and your UI start date to receive the enhanced ARPA benefits for UI recipients. Doing so will make you eligible for maximum subsidies.	<b>Now.</b> The Exchange will be automatically applying the enhanced subsidies to customers' premiums if they have reported income and are eligible. By reporting UI by May 1, you'll be able to take advantage of the benefits beginning on your June bill.

# Consumer Impacts

<b>Who</b>	<b>Do You Need To Take Action</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>Currently Enrolled – Have Reported Income</b>	<b>No.</b> The Exchange will automatically provide you the enhanced ARPA benefits.	Enhanced ARPA subsidies will be applied to your premiums beginning in June. For months you are enrolled in coverage prior to June, you will see your benefit when you file 2021 taxes.

# Consumer Impacts

Who	Do You Need To Take Action	When
<b>Currently Enrolled – Eligible for Unemployment Income (UI) in 2021 - Have Reported UI</b>	<b>No.</b> The Exchange will automatically provide you the enhanced ARPA benefits for UI recipients.	Enhanced ARPA subsidies will be applied to your premiums beginning in June. For months you are enrolled in coverage prior to June, you will see your benefit when you file 2021 taxes.

# Need Help Understanding This?

- Our statewide enrollment assisters can help. There are over 900 navigators located in your community at clinics and community support organizations and over 1600 state-certified brokers that can provide plan recommendations
- 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.
- More virtual help details available at:
  - <https://www.wahealthplanfinder.org/content/faq/virtual-help-details.html>

# Preparing the Assister Network

## Lead Navigator Organizations

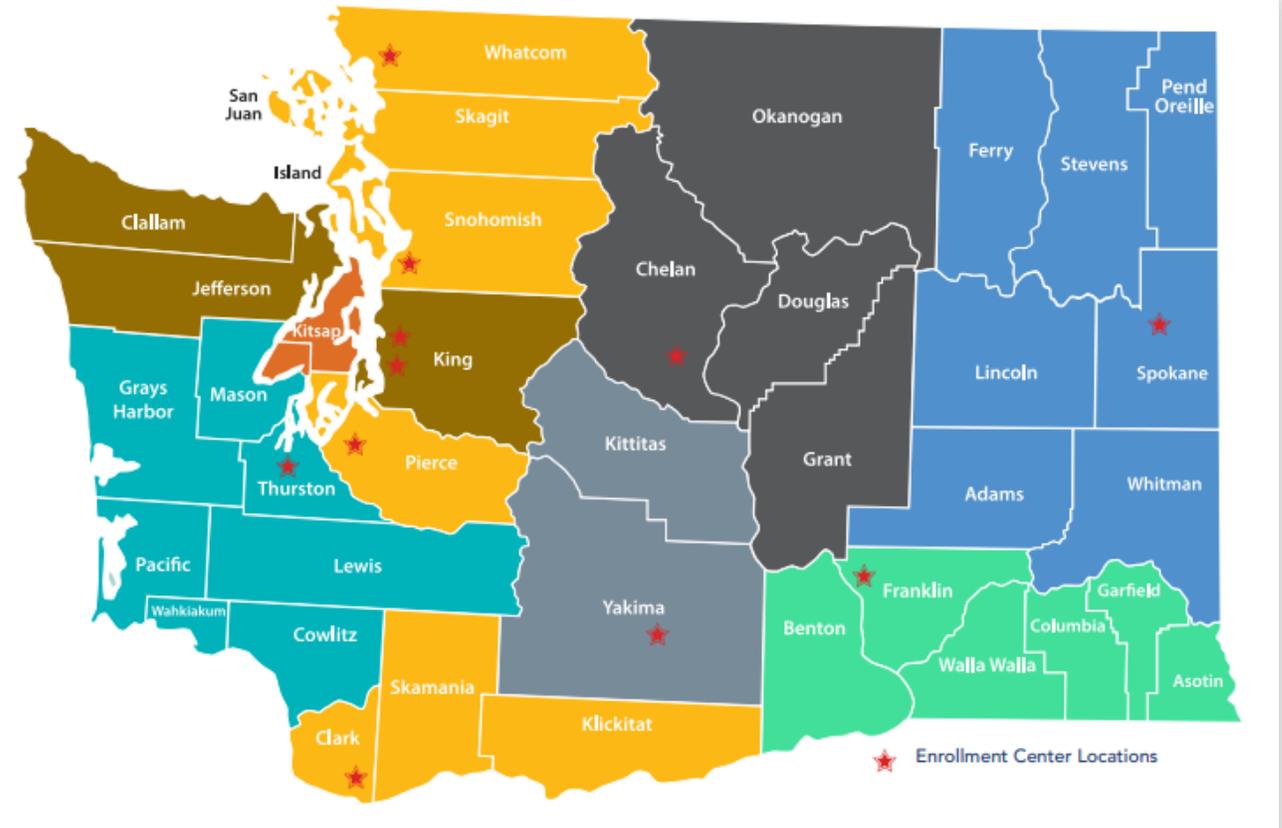
- Proactive outreach across service areas
- Partnering with vaccine distribution sites to facilitate enrollment in coverage

## Training Timeline

- **April 19 – May 3:** Required courses in Learning Management System
  - All navigators, Tribal assisters, certified application counselors must complete training by 5/3
- **May 4:** Assister Q&A Webinar
  - Opportunity for assisters to receive clarification on outstanding questions

# Enrollment Centers

- 11 Enrollment Centers
- Typically conduct outreach during Open Enrollment
- Amended contracts to allow budget spend outside of Open Enrollment to support implementation of the federal stimulus bill



# American Rescue Plan Act FAQs



# **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

# **I am an existing customer and need to report my income to benefit from the additional savings under ARPA, what steps do I need to take to update my *Washington Healthplanfinder* account?**

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).*

# Will everyone's premium be reduced?

- **No.** Not everyone will qualify for monthly premium reductions.
- Some people who would be newly eligible for premium assistance already pay less than 8.5% of their income on premiums.
- Some people will continue to not qualify for premium assistance.

# 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 after May 15 and change their plan.
- Currently enrolled customers currently getting premium tax credits want to switch plans 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

# **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.
  - More information at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa/laws-and-regulations/laws/cobra/premium-subsidy>
- 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

# Next Steps



# Next Steps

- Review online FAQs for additional detailed information
  - <https://www.wahbexchange.org/new-customers/coverage-basics/american-rescue-plan-faqs/>
- Use the calculator developed by KFF to see post ARPA savings amounts
  - <https://www.wahbexchange.org/new-customers/coverage-basics/american-rescue-plan-faqs/health-insurance-marketplace-calculator/>
- Reach out to Joan and Mary if you would like us to come present this information to another audience
  - [Mary.McHale@wahbexchange.org](mailto:Mary.McHale@wahbexchange.org)
  - [Joan.Altman@wahbexchange.org](mailto:Joan.Altman@wahbexchange.org)
- Attend for next Webinar in series (savings and tools available)
  - Wednesday April 21 @ noon
  - Sign-up information to be distributed





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