

Required Annual Notice

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Offer Free Or Low-Cost Health Coverage To Children And Families

If you are eligible for health coverage from your employer, but are unable to afford the premiums, many states, including Texas, have **premium assistance programs** that can help pay for coverage. These States use funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs to help people who are eligible for employer-sponsored health coverage, but need assistance in paying their health premiums.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, you can contact the Texas State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available to you.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **www.insurekidsnow.gov** to find out how to apply. If you qualify, you can ask the State if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

Once it is determined that you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, your employer's health plan is required to permit you and your dependents to enroll in the plan – as long as you and your dependents are eligible, but not already enrolled in the employer's plan. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance.**

You may be eligible for assistance for paying your employer health plan premiums. To find out if you are you should contact the following department for additional information about eligibility.

TEXAS – Medicaid

Website: <https://www.gethipptexas.com/>

Phone: 1-800-440-0493 Or Medicaid at 1-800-252-8263

If you have dependents residing in another state, they may also be eligible for premium assistance through their state of residency. For more information about other states that provide premium assistance programs and other special enrollment rights, you can contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
www.dol.gov/ebsa
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
www.cms.hhs.gov
1-877-267-2323, Ext. 61565

English, Spanish and Vietnamese versions of this notice are available on the district's Insurance Department web page in the General Insurance Information link.