

# Navigating Affordable Care Act Options

Ruth Kraut
Washtenaw Health Plan
krautr@ewashtenaw.org
(734) 544-3068











#### What is the WHP doing?

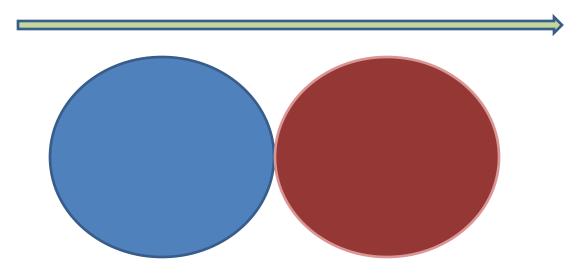
- Staff are Certified Application Counselors
- Reviewing all 6500 Plan B members for eligibility for Medicaid expansion, Marketplace, or stay on WHP
- To date have reviewed over 2000
- Will help WHP members—and others—get on the coverage that is the best available to them.
- Walk-in Hours: M-F, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 555 Towner
- Also: Special CMS Outreach Grant for children and parents who are Medicaid eligible



#### Timeline Issues

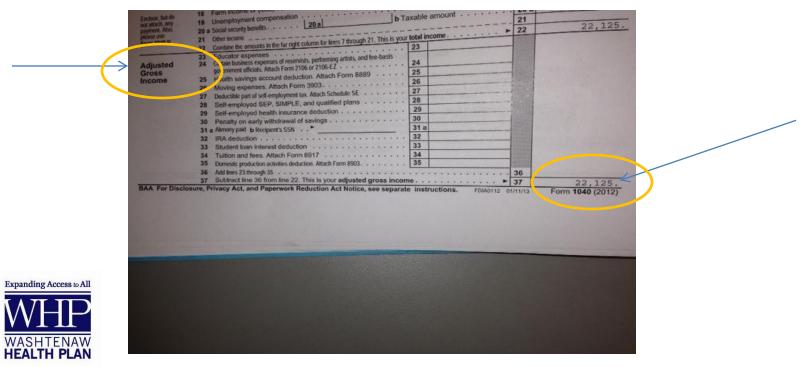
- Marketplace Open: through March 31, 2014
- Medicaid Expansion: Projected to start April 1, 2014 (May open slightly earlier for prospective enrollment but that is not assured.)
- Once Medicaid opens, it will stay open year-round
- Marketplace will be open next year only October 7-December 15, 2014





#### 3 Important Notes: MAGI Calculations

- Marketplace uses Modified Adjusted Gross Income calculations
- Medicaid switches to MAGI January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 (for most programs, but not for disability; elderly/blind; dual eligibles; Medicare cost share programs)



#### Special Note for the Self-Employed

- Modified Adjusted Gross Income for people who are self-employed may be VERY different from the gross income.
- Example: 1099 shows Jane Doe made \$60,000, but the modified adjusted gross income (certain deductions apply!) is \$40,000.
- Jane will qualify for tax credits, or for Medicaid, based on \$40,000 in income per year, not \$60,000.



#### 3 Important Notes: Asset Testing

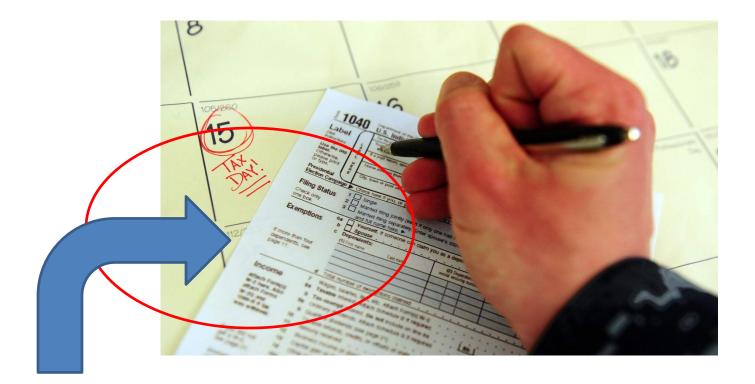
- Currently, asset testing for Medicaid programs exists except for children's Medicaid
- Starting in January, assets do not matter for people in the MAGI-eligible Medicaid groups.

(For most programs, but not for disability; elderly/blind; dual eligibles; Medicare cost share programs)



#### 3 Important Notes: Household Size

- Mostly, household size for both the Marketplace and Medicaid will be based on the household declared on your taxes.
- For Medicaid, there are a few exceptions to this.





#### 5 Groups: Under 100% Poverty Level

- Must wait until Medicaid expansion to get health coverage. (Cannot get subsidies on the marketplace.)
- UNLESS. . . Documented immigrants who will not be eligible for Medicaid can apply on the Marketplace.
- Medicaid plans will have the 10 essential benefits, and probably vision/dental too.

Household Size	100% Poverty Level
1	\$11,490
2	\$15,510
3	\$19,530
4	\$23,550



#### 5 Groups: 100-138% Poverty Level

- Have a choice of Marketplace or Medicaid. (Documented immigrants not eligible for Medicaid can do the Marketplace.)
- Can do Marketplace until April, and then switch to Medicaid
- If choosing Medicaid, need to be sure MAGI income is not over 138% Poverty Level
- If choosing Marketplace, SILVER plans will likely offer the best benefit. They are the only ones that will provide cost-sharing as well as premium reduction. Cost sharing reductions reduce out of pocket costs! (You can choose any level plan.)

Household Size	100%-138% Poverty Level
1	\$11,490-\$15,856
2	\$15,510-\$21,404
3	\$19,530-\$26,591
4	\$23,550-\$32,499



### 4 Groups: 138-250% Poverty Level

- Are eligible on the Marketplace for both premium and cost sharing reductions. Cost sharing reductions reduce out of pocket costs!
- SILVER plans are the only ones that will provide cost-sharing as well as premium reduction. (You can choose any level plan.)

Household Size	138%-250% Poverty Level
1	\$15,856-\$28,725
2	\$21,404-\$31,020
3	\$26,591-\$39,060
4	\$32,499-\$47,100



#### Five Groups: 250-400% Poverty Level

- Eligible for premium reductions on the Marketplace (but not cost sharing)
- Premium reductions are based on the estimated affordability of the second-lowest silver plan, but you can choose any plan bronze, silver, gold, platinum.

Household Size	250%-400% Poverty Level
1	\$28,725-\$45,960
2	\$31,020-\$62,040
3	\$39,060-\$78,120
4	\$47,100-\$94,200



#### Five Groups: Over 400% Poverty Level

- Good news: Your income > 2/3 of the people in the country
- Bad news: Not eligible for premium subsidies
- THEREFORE:

There is no need to shop for health coverage on

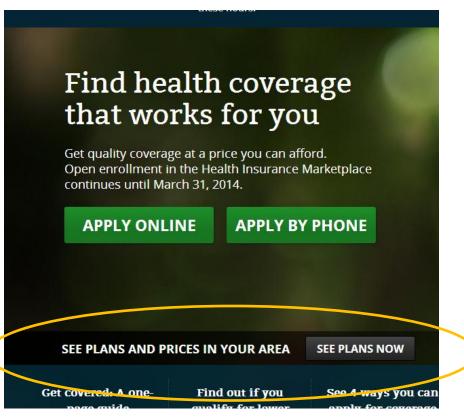
healthcare.gov.

Household Size	Over 400% Poverty Level
1	Over \$45,960
2	Over \$62,040
3	Over \$78,120
4	Over \$94,200



## How Do I Find Out About Available Plans?

 Via healthcare.gov (This will show plans without premium subsidies)



- Get detail via insurance company websites
  - Blue Cross, HAP, My Priority Health, Aetna, etc.
- One ACA reform is that shopping across companies should be easy because the information should be easily comparable.



#### Don't Get Scammed!

- Not all 2014 plans are on the exchange, but:
- All plans that meet the standards can only ask you three things:
  - Your age
  - Your geographic location/zip code
  - Whether or not you use tobacco
- They cannot ask about pre-existing conditions
- Expect to pay more if you are older or you use tobacco
- If you have been paying for catastrophic/high deductible coverage, expect to pay more for the 10 essential benefits—but you will get more as well



#### Call us, maybe?!

#### **Ruth Kraut or Krista Nordberg**

Washtenaw Health Plan 555 Towner, PO Box 0915 Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ruth: krautr@ewashtenaw.org, 544-3068

Krista: nordbergk@ewashtenaw.org, 544-6778

