



How Health Coverage Affects Your Taxes

When you file your taxes, you'll need to include information about your health coverage. The steps you take will depend on the type of coverage you had in 2016.

- **If you had a Marketplace plan and used premium tax credits to lower your monthly payments**, you must file a federal tax return and “reconcile” your premium tax credit.
- **If you had a Marketplace plan and paid full price**, it’s a good idea to check information about your health plan and household members before you file. You may still qualify for a premium tax credit.
- **If you had health coverage through a job or another kind of qualifying coverage** (also called “minimum essential coverage”), you can check the “Full-year coverage” box on your federal income tax form, if you had this coverage for all of 2016.
- **If you didn’t have health coverage** for all or part of the year, you can see if you qualify for an exemption from the requirement to have health insurance. Otherwise, you’ll pay a fee when you file your federal income taxes.

I had a Marketplace plan in 2016

Watch your mail for Form 1095-A. It'll help you file your federal income taxes.

You also can download and print a copy of this important tax document from your Marketplace account on [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Wait until you download or get this document before you file your income tax return. When your Form 1095-A arrives, make sure the information on it matches your records. Check things like the start and end date of your coverage and the number of people in your household. If you think any information is wrong, visit [HealthCare.gov/taxes](https://www.healthcare.gov/taxes) to find out how to get a corrected Form 1095-A.

If you had a Marketplace plan and used premium tax credits to lower your monthly payments:

You must file a federal tax return and “reconcile” your premium tax credit. This means you’ll compare the amount you used to lower your monthly premium costs with the actual amount of financial help you qualify for, based on your final income for the year.

When you applied for health coverage through the Marketplace, we used information you gave about your household and income to help figure out how much premium tax credit you were eligible to get. Now that you know your final income for the year, you need to reconcile the difference between the amount of financial help you used with the actual amount you should have gotten based on your earnings for the whole year. Information included on your Form 1095-A will help you do this.

- If there’s a difference, it will affect the amount of your refund or tax bill.
- If you don’t file a tax return and reconcile your financial help, you won’t be eligible to get financial help in the Marketplace in the future.

If you had a Marketplace plan, but didn’t qualify for (or didn’t apply for) a premium tax credit:

Your 1095-A should have the number “0” in Part III, column C, if you paid full price for your Marketplace plan. If you want to see if you qualify for a premium tax credit based on your final income for the year, visit [HealthCare.gov/tax-tool](https://www.healthcare.gov/tax-tool) to find the premium for the second lowest cost Silver plan (SLCSP) that applied to you that year. Use this information to fill out IRS Form 8962. When you’re done, you’ll find out if you qualify for a premium tax credit based on your income. If you do, you must include your completed Form 8962 when you file your income tax return. Your credit will either increase your refund or reduce your tax bill.

If you’re sure you don’t qualify for a premium tax credit, you don’t need to take the steps above. You can just check the box for “Full-year coverage” on your tax return. Keep your Form 1095-A with your other tax records.

I had coverage for all of 2016 through a job, Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or coverage from another qualifying source

If you and everyone in your household had coverage for the entire year through your employer, the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace, or other qualifying coverage, you’ll simply need to **check a box on your federal income tax form to indicate that you had coverage for the whole year**. By the first week of April, you might get a tax document called a Form 1095-B or Form 1095-C from your employer, your insurance company, or from the government program that gives you your coverage, like Medicare or Medicaid. You don’t need to attach this document to your tax return or wait to get your 1095-B or 1095-C before filling out your tax return, but you should keep the form in a safe place with your other tax records.

I didn’t have health coverage in 2016

If you didn’t have health coverage for all or part of the year, you’ll need to apply for or claim a health coverage exemption or you’ll pay a fee when you file your federal income tax return.

- **Get an exemption:** If you couldn’t afford coverage or if you met certain other conditions, you may be able to apply for an exemption or claim an exemption on your tax return. Visit [HealthCare.gov/exemptions-tool](https://www.healthcare.gov/exemptions-tool) to see if you might qualify for an exemption and how to apply for one. If you get an exemption, you won’t have to pay the fee, but you still won’t have health coverage.

- **Pay the fee:** If affordable health insurance options were available but you chose not to enroll in coverage for 2016, and if you didn't qualify for an exemption, you may have to pay a fee when you file your 2016 federal income taxes. The fee for not having health coverage in 2016 is \$695 or 2.5% of your annual household income, whichever is higher.

For more information:

- For more information about how your Marketplace coverage will affect your taxes, visit HealthCare.gov/taxes or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.
- Many people with Marketplace coverage can get free help with filling out their taxes. This may include free access to tax software programs, or free in-person assistance. For more information, visit IRS.gov/freefile or IRS.gov/VITA.
- If you have questions about your taxes, visit IRS.gov.

You have the right to get the information in this product in an alternate format. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Aboutwebsite/CMSNonDiscriminationNotice.html>, or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 for more information. TTY users should call 1-855-889-4325.

Paid for by the Department of Health and Human Services.

