

MAGI 2.0

(it's complicated)

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Vermont Low Income Taxpayer Project

- Free federal tax help for individuals
 - Advice or representation for IRS disputes
 - Exams, U.S. Tax Court, Innocent Spouse
 - Collection alternatives, collection appeals
- Education and outreach on federal tax issues
- A voice for low income taxpayers
 - Submit issues to the TAS Systemic Advocacy System
 - Comment on IRS forms and regulations
 - Part of a national network of Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) funded by the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service





What we will cover

- New Developments and FAQs on Household Rules
 - Relief from the joint filing requirement
 - "Considered Unmarried" and same sex marriages
 - What definition of 'child' applies
- FAQs on Income and Tax Filing
 - IRS filing requirements
 - Social Security income
- New and Revised IRS Forms and Reconciliation
 - Reporting MEC, claiming Premium Tax Credits, exemptions, and penalties
- Questions and Discussion





What is MAGI?

- Modified Adjusted Gross Income is a methodology for determining:
 - Household composition and size
 - Household income
- Used to streamline eligibility determinations across multiple Insurance Affordability Programs (IAPs)
- See NHeLP's The Advocate's Guide to MAGI
- See Vermont Legal Aid's Low-Income Taxpayers and the Affordable Care Act





New Developments and FAQs on Household Rules





Domestic Abuse Survivors

- Relief from PTC joint filing requirement if
 - Living apart from abuser
 - File using "married, filing separately"
 - Attest that the relief applies (e.g., no documentation required)
- Broad definition of abuse including physical and emotional
- Includes abuse of a family member
- For FFMs, applicant should check "single"
- Limited to just 3 consecutive years
- 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-2T(b)(2)(ii)





Abandoned Spouses

- Relief from joint filing requirement if:
 - Unable to locate spouse
 - After "reasonable diligence"
- For FFMs, applicant should check "single"
- Limited to just 3 consecutive years
- 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-2T(b)(2)(ii)





"Considered Unmarried"

- File a separate return
- Pay more than half the cost of keeping up his/her home for the tax year.
- Your spouse did not live in your home during the last 6 months of the tax year.
 - Your spouse is considered to live in your home even if he or she is temporarily absent due to special circumstances.
- Your home was the main home of your child, stepchild, or foster child for more than half the year.
- Can file using the "Head of Household" filing status
- 26 U.S.C. § 7703(b)





You're married to me, but I'm not married to you

- Individuals who meet the requirements for "considered unmarried" will qualify for Head of Household filing status and can be eligible for PTCs/CSRs even if the married couple does not file a joint federal income tax return.
- However, the remaining spouse will not be treated as "unmarried," and thus not eligible for PTCs/CSRs, unless he/she separately meets the requirements to file as Head of Household.





Example – "Considered Unmarried"

George and Louise are married, but live apart. Louise maintains a household for their child, Lionel, and pays for it with income from her job at a dry cleaners.

Louise is "considered unmarried" under IRS rules and qualifies to file taxes using the "Head of Household" filing status, claiming Lionel as a dependent. Louise and Lionel are eligible for PTCs and CSRs.

George is married under IRS rules and must file taxes using "married, filing separately" filing status. He is not eligible for PTCs or CSRs.







Decree of Separate Maintenance

- Rarely used legal status available in some states
- Allows married individuals to file as "single" even if the couple has not yet obtained a final divorce decree.
 (26 U.S.C. § 7703(a)(2))
- IRS will look to state law to determine if DoSM affects marital status (see Boyer v. C.I.R., 732 F.2d 191, 194 (C.A.D.C., 1984)
- The following states do not provide for a "decree of separate maintenance" or legal separation action in court: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Texas.
- A temporary order does not qualify; it must be a final order of legal separation.





Same Sex Marriages

- Marketplaces <u>must</u> recognize same sex marriages if they were valid in the state or foreign country in which they were celebrated
- Medicaid programs <u>may</u> recognize same sex marriages
- Individuals may have two household determinations one for the Marketplace and one for Medicaid.

See

- IRS Rev. Rule 2013-17
- CCIIO Guidance on Internal Revenue Ruling 2013-17 and Eligibility for Advance
 Payments of the Premium Tax Credit and Cost Sharing Reductions, Sept. 27, 2013
- CMS, Dear State Health Official Letter, Sept. 27, 2013





Example: Same Sex Marriage

Mitch works as an attorney and lives with his husband Cam, who stays home caring for their daughter Lily. They file federal income taxes jointly and claim Lily as a dependent.

They live in Ohio, which does not recognize their marriage, and Mitch's employer coverage does not extend to Cam.

Cam's Marketplace household is three.

However, Cam's Medicaid household is two. Lily's Medicaid household is three.







Problem Child

- Qualifying Child
- Dependent Child
- Medicaid MAGI Child
- Medicaid MAGI Child*
 *w/age restrictions







Qualifying Child

 A federal tax status for claiming an individual as a dependent (26 U.S.C. § 152(c))

Relationship

 son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them

Age

- Under 19, or under 24 for full time students
- Any age if "permanently and totally" disabled

Residence

 Must live with you for more than ½ the year (waivable for noncustodial parents)

Support

The child must not provide more than 50% of own support





Dependent Child

- A Medicaid defined term to determine eligibility under "Parents and Caretaker Relatives" category (42 C.F.R. § 435.4)
 - is under the age of 18, or, at state option, is age 18 and a full-time student in secondary school (or equivalent vocational or technical training), if before attaining age 19 the child may reasonably be expected to complete school or training; and
 - is deprived of parental support by reason of the death, absence from the home, physical or mental incapacity, or unemployment of at least one parent (unless the state has elected in its state plan to eliminate such deprivation requirement). A parent is considered to be unemployed if he or she is working less than 100 hours per month, or a higher number of hours as the state may elect in its state plan





Medicaid MAGI Child

- Defined in Medicaid MAGI regulations, applies only when determining MAGI financial eligibility (42 C.F.R. § 435.603(b))
- "Child" means a natural or biological, adopted, or step child
- Age limits apply when using the household rules for nonfilers/non-dependents





Example: child age limits

George and Louise are not married, but live together. Louise claims their 18 year old son Lionel, a full-time student, as a "Qualifying Child" tax dependent. Their state Medicaid program does not extend its age limit to 21 for full-time students.



- Since Lionel is under age 19, his Medicaid MAGI household is determined using the separate Medicaid rules for non-filers/non dependents. Lionel's Medicaid MAGI house is 3: Lionel and the parents he lives with (George and Louise).
- 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(f)(2)(ii)





Example: child age limits

George and Louise are not married, but live together. Louise claims their 19 year old son Lionel, a full-time student, as a "Qualifying Child" tax dependent. Their state Medicaid program does not extend its age limit to 21 for full-time students.



- Since Lionel is age 19, his Marketplace and Medicaid MAGI household is two (Lionel and Louise)
- 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(f)(2)





All About Sneede

 Under Sneede, income could not be deemed to an applicant for or recipient of Medicaid from a person who was not financially responsible for the applicant/recipient (e.g., from a stepparent or sibling).



- Under MAGI rules, the stepparent and siblings may be in the same household as a child, and thus their income will count.
- The 9th Circuit modified its 1990 injunction so *Sneede* will not apply to MAGI Medicaid determinations, but will continue to apply to non-MAGI Medicaid determinations.





FAQs on Income and Tax Filing





Social Security vs. Supplemental Security

Social Security

Social Security income provided under Title II of the Social Security Act (SSA) includes Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), retirement income, and survivor's benefits. These forms of income *are counted in MAGI*.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is provided under Title XVI of the SAA. It is designed to help persons who are aged, blind, or disabled, who are very low income and have limited assets. SSI is **not** taxed and does not count towards MAGI.





- For dependents, income tax returns are required to be filed by "every individual having for the taxable year gross income which equals or exceeds" the following amounts (2014 / 2015):
 - Unearned income of \$1,000 / \$1,050 or more
 - Earned income of \$6,200 / \$6,300 or more
 - For people who have both earned and unearned income, where the total is more than larger of \$1,000 / \$1,050 or earned income (up to \$5,850 / \$5,950) plus \$350
 - Requirements differ for blind, aged, married dependents – see IRS Pub. 501
 - But this is too easy! The Internal Revenue Code carves out certain items from the definition of "gross income."





- Only taxable Social Security is counted in "gross income" to determine whether someone has a filing requirement
 - http://www.irs.gov/uac/Are-My-Social-Security-or-Railroad-Retirement-Tier-I-Benefits-Taxable%3F
 - See IRS Pub. 501, Who Must File; 26 U.S.C. § 86
- If a dependent's only income is from Social Security, there is no filing requirement
- If your unmarried child receives a Social Security benefit of \$6,000 per year, that does not count toward household income
 - The child would need to have other income over \$22,000 before any of her Social Security benefits would be taxable!
 - See IRS Publication 915





Filing Requirements for Children and Other Dependents

Single dependents. Was your dependent either age 65 or older or blind?	
No. Your dependent must file a return if any of the following apply.	
His or her unearned income was over \$1,000.	
His or her earned income was over \$6,200.	
His or her gross income was more than the larger of—	
• \$1,000, or	
His or her earned income (up to \$5,850) plus \$350.	
Yes. Your dependent must file a return if any of the following apply.	
His or her unearned income was over \$2,550 (\$4,100 if 65 or older and blind).	
 His or her earned income was over \$7,750 (\$9,300 if 65 or older and blind). 	
His or her gross income was more than the larger of—	
 \$2,550 (\$4,100 if 65 or older and blind), or 	
 His or her earned income (up to \$5,850) plus \$1,900 (\$3,450 if 65 or older and blind). 	
Married dependents. Was your dependent either age 65 or older or blind?	
No.Your dependent must file a return if any of the following apply.	
His or her unearned income was over \$1,000.	
His or her earned income was over \$6,200.	
 His or her gross income was at least \$5 and his or her spouse files a separate return and itemizes deduced 	ctions.
His or her gross income was more than the larger of—	
• \$1,000, or	
 His or her earned income (up to \$5,850) plus \$350. 	
Yes. Your dependent must file a return if any of the following apply.	
 His or her unearned income was over \$2,200 (\$3,400 if 65 or older and blind). 	
 His or her earned income was over \$7,400 (\$8,600 if 65 or older and blind). 	
His or her gross income was at least \$5 and his or her spouse files a separate return and itemizes deduced.	ctions.
His or her gross income was more than the larger of—	
• \$2,200 (\$3,400 if 65 or older and blind), or	
 His or her earned income (up to \$5,850) plus \$1,550 (\$2,750 if 65 or older and blind). 	



In this chart, unearned income includes taxable interest, ordinary dividends, and capital gain distributions. It also includes unemployment compensation, taxable social security benefits, pensions, annuities, and distributions of unearned income from a trust. Earned income includes salaries, wages, tips, professional fees, and taxable scholarship and fellowship grants. Gross income is the total of your unearned and earned income.

- Only dependents who have an income tax filing requirement under 26 U.S.C. § 6012(a)(1) have their income included in MAGI
 - 26 U.S.C. §§ 36B(d)(2)(A), 5000A(c)(4)(B); 42
 C.F.R. § 435.603(d)(2).
- Some people have to file a return for another reason
 - Self-employment tax is the big one (26 U.S.C. § 6017)
- If your child makes \$1500 mowing lawns, that is not counted in household income
 - The child has a filing requirement, to report SE tax
 - The child does not have an income tax filing requirement under 26 U.S.C. § 6012(a)(1).





Example 1: A dependent earns \$6,100 per year at an afterschool job.

 There is no filing requirement, so that income does not count toward the household income.

Example 2: A dependent earns \$6,400 per year at an afterschool job.

 She has a filing requirement, so her MAGI will count toward the household income.





Example 3: A dependent receives \$600 per month in Social Security benefits (\$7,200 per year) and has no other income.

- The dependent is not required to file federal income taxes because the dependent's Social Security income is not taxable and does not count toward the \$1,000 unearned income threshold.
- Therefore none of the dependent's income would be included in the taxpayer's household income.





Example 4: A dependent receives \$600 per month in Social Security benefits (\$7,200 per year) and has an afterschool job earning \$6,400 for the year.

- The dependent is required to file federal income taxes because her earned income exceeds the filing threshold amount (more than \$6,200 / \$6,300 in earned income).
- Her Social Security income is not taxable because ½ of her benefits plus the other income (\$3,600 plus \$6,200) is less than \$25,000.
- However, her MAGI is \$13,600, because non-taxable Social Security is one of the additions to AGI.* Her entire income will be added to the MAGI income of her household.





New and Revised IRS Forms and Reconciliation





ACA-related IRS Forms

- Form 1040 revised to show ISRP, PTC, and APTC repayment
- Form 8962 PTC claim and APTC reconciliation
- Form 8965 Exemptions from the individual shared responsibility requirement
- Form 8965 Instructions Worksheet for calculating the individual shared responsibility payment
- Form 1095-A provided by Marketplace to document coverage and PTCs





For the year Jan. 1-Dec	: 31,2014, or other tax year beginn	ing	, 2014, ending	, 20	See separate instructions		
Your first name and i	nitial	Last name					
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If a joint return, spou	se's first name and initial	Last name			Spouse's social security numb		
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City, town or post office	e, state, and ZIP code. If you have	a foreign address, also complete sp	aces below (see instruction	9).	Presidential Election Campa Check here if you, or your spouse if fil		
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If more than four dependents, see					(see instructions)		
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Form 1040 (2014	4		Page
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Form 1040 (2014)

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	65	2014 estimated tax payme	nts and amount appli	ied from 2013 re	eturn 65	5						
If you have a gualifying	66a	Earned income credit (EIC)	7 7 10 7	. 66	а						
child, attach	b											
Schedule EIC.	67											
	68	American opportunity of	redit from Form 88	63, line 8	. 68	3						
	69	Net premium tax credit.	Attach Form 8962		6)						
	70	Amount paid with reque	st for extension to fi	ile	70)						
	71	Excess social security an	d tier 1 RRTA tax wit	thheld	. 7	T .						
	72	Credit for federal tax on fuels. Attach Form 4136										
	73											
	74	Add lines 64, 65, 66a, ar	distributed by the second state of the second secon		THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY.			-	74			
Refund	75						ount you overn	aid	75			_
rtorana	76a								76a			_
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instructions.		3 15 15 17 1 (15 b) 1 1 1 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	at according to a constant	NAT	tax ▶ 7			7				
Amount	77 78	Amount of line 75 you was Amount you owe. Subtr	and the property of the proper				na a lando casta a		70			
You Owe	2007			e 63. For detail	1	501	, see instruction	8	78			-
Tou Owe	79	Estimated tax penalty (s			79	-						
Third Party		you want to allow anothe	r person to discuss		n the IRS	see in		11 40 50	. Compl	ete belo	W.	No
Designee		Designoe's Phone Personal identi name ► no. ► number (PIN)						discation	- [
Sign		der penalties of perjury. I declar	e that I have examined t		ompanying :	cheduk		100	he best of	my know	ledge and	belief.
Here		ey are true, correct, and complet										N-8495-60
ST TILLY CHANGE	Ye	Your signature Date Your occupation						Daytim	e phone r	number		
Joint return? See instructions:												
Keep a copy for	Sp	ouse's signature. If a joint retu	urn, both must sign. Date Spor	Spouse's	oouse's occupation			If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection			rotection	
your records.	10: D							PiN, ente here (see	inst)		TT	
Paid	Pr	rint/Type preparer's name Preparer's signature			Date			Check if PTIN				
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Preparer	Fir	Firm's name ►					Firm's EIN ►					
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..... 1095-A

Health Insurance Marketplace Statement

OMB No. 1545-2232

Department of the Treasury Internal Flovense Service Information about Form 1095-A and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/form1095a. RRECTED

Part I	Recipient I	nformation
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Marketplace identifier	2 Meketplace-assigned policy number	3 Policy issuer's name		
4 Respects name	DAET	5 (leopents SSN	8 Paragaent's date of births	
7 Посірест'я просед'я пате	7/7	8 Recipient's aposper's SSN	Recipient's spouse's date of birth	
10 Policy start date	11 Policy termination date	12 Street address including apart	ment no.)	
13 Cey or town	14 State or province	15 Country and ZIP or heeign po-	And Gode	

Part II Coverage Household

	A. Covered Individual Name	B. Coward Individual SSN	C. Cowered Individual Date of Bath	D. Covered Individual Start Date	E. Cowered Individual Terrenation Date
16	DU	NO			
17					
18					
19					
20					

Part III Household Information

Month	A. Monthly Premium Amount	B. Monthly Premium Amount of Second Lowest Cost Silver Plan (SLCSP)	G. Monthly Advance Payment of Premium Tax Credit
21 January			
22 February			
23 March			
24 April			
25 May			
26 June			
27 July			
28 August			
29 September			
30 October			
31 November			
32 December			
33 Annual Totals	work Packution Act Notice see sens		1095-A



Form 8962

Premium Tax Credit (PTC)

OMB No. 1545-0074

Attachment Sequence No. 73

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Name shown on your return ► Attach to Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040NR.

▶ Information about Form 8962 and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/form8962.

Your social security number

Relief (see instructions) Part 1: Annual and Monthly Contribution Amount Family Size: Enter the number of exemptions from Form 1040 or Form 1040A, line 6d, or Form 1040NR, line 7d. Modified AGI: Enter your modified b Enter total of your dependents' modified 2b AGI (see instructions) . AGI (see instructions) 2a Household Income: Add the amounts on lines 2a and 2b 3 Federal Poverty Line: Enter the federal poverty amount as determined by the family size on line 1 and the federal poverty table for your state of residence during the tax year (see instructions). Check the appropriate box for the federal poverty table used. a Alaska c Other 48 states and DC b Hawaii 4 Household Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Line: Divide line 3 by line 4. Enter the result rounded to a whole percentage. (For example, for 1.542 enter the result as 154, for 1.549 enter as 155.) (See instructions for special rules.) 5 Is the result entered on line 5 less than or equal to 400%? (See instructions if the result is less than 100%.) Yes. Continue to line 7. No. You are not eligible to receive PTC. If you received advance payment of PTC, see the instructions for how to report your Excess Advance PTC Repayment amount. 7 Applicable Figure: Using your line 5 percentage, locate your "applicable figure" on the table in the instructions b Monthly Contribution for Health Care: Divide Annual Contribution for Health Care: line 8a by 12. Round to whole dollar amount 86 Multiply line 3 by line 7 8a





Part 9					e Payment of Pre and want to use the alto		920120-2	instructions)
9			licy Allocation, or Part 5,		STATE OF THE PARTY	No. Continue to		
10	Do all Forms 1	095-A for your tax house	85	January through Decembe	r with no changes in month	ly amounts shown on li	nes 21	-32, columns A and B
С	Annual alculation	A. Premium Amount (Form(s) 1095-A, line 33A)	B. Annual Premium Amount of SLCSP (Form(s) 1095-A, line 33B)	C. Annual Contribution Amount (Line 8a)	D. Annual Maximum Premium Assistance (Subtract C from B)	E. Annual Premiur Tax Credit Allowe (Smaller of A or D	d /E	- Annual Advance Payment of PTC orm(s) 1095-A, line 33C)
11	Annual Totals							
	Monthly	A. Monthly Premium Amount (Form(s) 1095-A, lines 21–32, column A)	B. Monthly Premium Amount of SLCSP (Form(s) 1095-A, lines 21–32, column B)	C. Monthly Contribution Amount (Amount from line 8b or alternative marriage monthly contribution)	D. Monthly Maximum Premium Assistance (Subtract C from B)	E. Monthly Premiu Tax Credit Allowe (Smaller of A or D	d (Fo	. Monthly Advance Payment of PTC orm(s) 1095-A, line 21-32, column C)
12	January							
13	February							
14	March							
15	April							
16	May							
17	June							
18	July							
19	August							
20	September							
21	October							
22	November							
23	December							
24	Total Premi	um Tax Credit: Enter	the amount from line	11E or add lines 12E ti	hrough 23E and enter t	the total here .	24	
25	Advance Pa	yment of PTC: Enter	r the amount from line	11F or add lines 12F to	hrough 23F and enter t	he total here .	25	
26	1040, line 69	; Form 1040A, line 45;	or Form 1040NR, line 65	5. If you elected the alter	24. Enter the difference mative calculation for ma this line blank and contin	rriage, enter zero.	26	
Part			Advance Paymen				-	
27								
28						1	28	
29	Excess Advance Premium Tax Credit Repayment: Enter the smaller of line 27 or line 28 here and on Form 1040, line 46; Form 1040A, line 29; or Form 1040NR, line 44					on Form 1040,	29	
For P			see your tax return in		Cat. No. 377	84Z	1/2	Form 8962 (2014

Example: Claiming the PTC

Please see the handouts





ACA Exemptions

Resources

- Vermont Legal Aid's Low-Income Taxpayers and the Affordable Care Act
- ABA's Effectively Representing Your Client Before the IRS, forthcoming 6th Edition
- CMS information for assistors: <u>https://marketplace.cms.gov/technical-assistance-resources/shared-responsibility-payment-and-exemptions.html</u>
- CBPP webinars: http://www.healthreformbeyondthebasics.org/home/issues/exemptions-and-penalties/





Coverage Exemption	Granted by Marketplace	Claimed on tax return	Code for Exemption
Coverage is considered unaffordable — You cannot afford coverage because the minimum amount you must pay for premiums is more than 8% of your household income.		4	Α
Short coverage gap — You went without coverage for less than 3 consecutive months during the year.		1	В
Citizens living abroad and certain noncitizens — You are: a U.S. citizen or resident who spent at least 330 full days outside of the U.S. during a 12-month period, a U.S. citizen who is a bona fide resident of a foreign country or U.S. territory, or neither a U.S. citizen or U.S. national nor an alien lawfully present in the U.S.			С
Household income below the filing threshold — Your household income is below the minimum threshold for filing a tax return.		1	No Code See Part II
Members of a health care sharing ministry — You are a member of a health care sharing ministry.	■ ✓	4	D
Members of Federally-recognized Indian tribes — You are a member of a Federally-recognized Indian tribe.	1	1	E
Incarceration — You are in a jail, prison, or similar penal institution or correctional facility after the disposition of charges.	1	1	F
Members of certain religious sects — You are a member of a recognized religious sect.	4		No Code See Part I
Limited benefit Medicaid and TRICARE programs — You are enrolled in certain types of Medicaid and TRICARE programs that are not minimum essential coverage. (Available only in 2014.)		1	Н
Fiscal year employer–sponsored plan — You were eligible, but did not purchase, coverage under an employer plan with a plan year that started in 2013 and ended in 2014. (Available only in 2014.)		1	Н
Hardships:			
 Two or more family members' aggregate cost of self-only employer-sponsored coverage is more than 8% of household income, as is the cost of any available employer-sponsored coverage for the entire family. 		1	G
 You purchased insurance through the Marketplace during the initial enrollment period but have a coverage gap at the beginning of 2014. 		1	G
 You applied for CHIP coverage during the initial open enrollment period and were found eligible for CHIP based on that application but have a coverage gap at the beginning of 2014. 		1	G
You are an American Indian, Alaska native, or a spouse or descendent of either who is eligible for services through an Indian health care provider.	1	1	E
Your gross income is below the filing threshold.		1	No Code See Part II
 You are experiencing circumstances that prevent you from obtaining coverage under a qualified health plan. 	1		No Code See Part I
 You do not have access to affordable coverage based on your projected household income. 	1		No Code See Part I
 You are ineligible for Medicaid solely because the state in which you live does not participate in the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. 	1		No Code See Part I
You have been notified that your health insurance policy will not be renewed and you consider the other plans available unaffordable.	1		No Code See Part I



Health Coverage Exemptions

► Attach to Form 1040, Form 1040A, or Form 1040EZ.

OMB No. 1545-0074

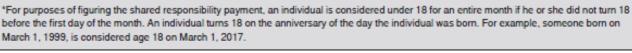
Department of the Treasury Attachment Sequence No. 75 ► Information about Form 8965 and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/form8965. Internal Flovenue Service Your social security number Name as shown on seturn Complete this form if you have a Marketplace-granted coverage exemption or you are claiming a coverage exemption on your return. Marketplace-Granted Coverage Exemptions for Individuals: If you and/or a member of your tax household Part I have an exemption granted by the Marketplace, complete Part I. a Name of Individual c Exemption Certificate Number 3 4 5 Coverage Exemptions for Your Household Claimed on Your Return: Part II 7a Are you claiming an exemption because your household income is below the filing threshold?, b Are you claiming a hardship exemption because your gross income is below the filing threshold? Coverage Exemptions for Individuals Claimed on Your Return: If you and/or a member of your tax Part III household are claiming an exemption on your return, complete Part III. e f g Jan Feb Mar Name of Individual SSN May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Apr Type Year 10 11 12



Shared Responsibility Payment Worksheet

If you or another member of your tax household had neither minimum essential coverage nor a coverage exemption for any month during 2014, use the Shared Responsibility Payment Worksheet, below, to figure your shared responsibility payment. You will enter the amount from line 14 of the worksheet on Form 1040, line 61; Form 1040A, line 38; or Form 1040EZ, line 11.

Complete the monthly columns by placing "X's" in each month in which you or another member of your tax household had neither minimum essential coverage nor a coverage exemption. May Sep Oct Name Feb Mar Apr Jun Aug Nov Dec 1. Total number of X's in a month. If 5 or 2. Total number of X's in a month for 3. One-half the number of X's in a month for individuals under 18* Add lines 2 and 3 for each month 5. Multiply line 4 by \$95 for each month. If \$285 or more, enter \$285 10. Multiply line 9 by 1% (.01) 11. Is line 10 more than \$285? Yes. Multiply line 10 by the number of months for which line 1 is more than zero No. Enter the amount from line 14 of the Flat Dollar Amount Worksheet 12. Divide line 11 by 12.0 14. Enter the smaller of line 12 or line 13 here and on Form 1040, line 61; Form 1040A, line 38; or Form 1040EZ, line 11. This is your shared responsibility payment





Rob is a skilled Jamaican farm worker. For the last 5 years he has worked in the U.S. from May through October under the H-2A agricultural guest worker program. Rob is not married. He has no children in the United States.



In 2014, Rob works in the U.S. under his H-2A visa for just over 6 months. He arrives on April 25 and leaves on November 10. He has no health insurance during that time. Rob's employer pays him \$12,150 total during the year. He has no other worldwide income and no adjustments, so his AGI is \$12,150.





Rob will owe a penalty on his 2014 U.S. tax return

Rob is considered a resident for U.S. tax purposes, under the substantial presence test.

Rob was "lawfully present" in the U.S., under his visa.

His income is more than the filing threshold for a single person (\$10,150)

He was without health insurance for more than 2 months, while lawfully present in the U.S.



Why can't Rob get an exemption from the penalty?

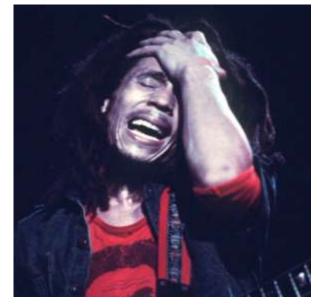
- No affordability exemption is available, because Rob could have received a Premium Tax Credit. With such low income, his "expected contribution" would have been 2% of MAGI.
- What about a hardship exemption?





What is Rob's ACA penalty for 2014?

- The flat dollar amount is \$7.92 per month (\$95 divided by 12)
- The percent of income amount is 1% of \$2,000 (12,150 – 10,150), divided by 12, which equals \$1.67 per month
- The flat dollar amount is used because it's larger. Rob's penalty is \$7.92 x 6 months = \$47.52. Rob does not owe a penalty for April or November, because he was not "lawfully present" for those entire months.



- Rob's penalty amount can't exceed the monthly national average bronze plan premiums for six months, for a single person. For 2014, this figure is \$204 per month, so \$1224 for six months.
- Rob's penalty is \$47.53.





What if Rob is married? His wife Venus lives in Jamaica and has never been to the U.S. Venus has no income.

- Venus could elect to be taxed as a U.S. resident, and file a joint tax return with Rob.
- To file a joint return, Venus needs an ITIN.
 - Application requires certified copies or original documents proving identity and foreign national status
- Does Venus want to file a U.S. tax return? She would have to report all her worldwide income to the I.R.S. until the election is revoked or suspended.
- IRS Pub. 519







Rob and Venus file a joint U.S. tax return

- Rob now qualifies for a penalty exemption
 - Rob's income is less than the filing threshold for married couples filing a joint tax return (\$20,300).
- Rob will save a little tax, too. His taxable income will be zero.
- Is it worth the hassle of getting an ITIN?
 Maybe not for 2014, but the penalty is a lot steeper for 2015 and 2016.







Venus won't file a joint U.S. tax return

- Rob's penalty calculation changes, because his filing threshold is lower
 - The percent of income amount is 1% of \$8,200 (12,150 – 3,950), divided by 12, which equals \$6.83 per month
 - Phew! The flat dollar amount is still larger, so Rob's penalty does not change.



- If Rob's wages were > \$13,454, he would owe a larger penalty than when he was single
- If Rob wants to get insurance, he won't qualify for a PTC





Just when you think it's over... PTC Wrinkles

- Spouses marry during the year
 - 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-4(b)(2)
- Spouses divorce during the year
 - 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-4T(b)(3)
- One parent enrolled the child in coverage, but the other parent ends up claiming the child
 - 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-4T(a)(1)(ii)(B)
- Spouses told the Marketplace they would file jointly, but end up filing separate returns
 - 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-4T(b)(4)
- QHP covers more than one tax household (from begin.)
 - 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-3(h)





Premium Tax Credit Wrinkles

Changes in marital status – general rule

- Use the benchmark applicable for your marital status on the first day of each month
- The expected contribution is determined using your household income and family size at the end of the year
- 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-4(b)(1)
- Remember, \$ PTC = Benchmark premiums minus expected contribution
 - Capped by actual premium





Premium Tax Credit Wrinkles

- 1. Newlyweds alternate calculation (optional)
 - Unmarried at beginning of year, married at year end, and at least one spouse received APTC
 - 26 C.F.R. § 1.36B-4(b)(2)
- Cannot be used to increase the PTC calculated under the general rule. Can be used to lower APTC repayment amount.
- Compute PTC separately for married and unmarried months
 - For unmarried months
 - Each spouse is allocated 50% of household income
 - Family size is the pre-marriage family size, except that dependents may be allocated as agreed





2. Former spouses

- Taxpayers who are married during the year, legally divorce or separate by the end of the year, and who were enrolled in the same QHP at any time during the year
- Or, taxpayer has a dependent enrolled in the same plan as their former spouse
- Or, taxpayer has a dependent enrolled in the same plan as a dependent of their former spouse
- Treas. Reg. § 1.36B-4T(b)(3)





2. Former spouses

- Must allocate premiums paid, APTC paid, and benchmark premiums
- One percentage is applied to all 3 allocated items
- Can agree on a percentage, or it's 50% by default
- If the plan covers a time period during which only one taxpayer or his or her dependents was enrolled in the plan, then 100% is allocated to that taxpayer.





2. Former spouses

- Once again, it doesn't matter who actually made the premium payments.
- Form 1095-A will be sent to the person identified in exchange records as the tax filer
- The benchmark premiums are allocated whether or not APTC was paid.
 - Why is this different than for shifting enrollees? The regulations don't explain.
 - Makes it simpler to complete Form 8962.





3. Shifting enrollees

- A dependent enrolled by one taxpayer but claimed by another. Treas. Reg. § 1.36B-4T(a)(1)(ii)(B).
- Should be mostly allocation of PTC between parents
- Parent enrolls child in health plan expecting to claim as dependent and receives APTC, but other parent ultimately properly claims child as dependent





3. Shifting enrollees

- Premiums paid must be allocated between the parents
- If APTC was paid, APTC and benchmark premiums are also allocated
- One percentage is applied to all 3 allocated items
 - The parents can pick any allocation percentage
- If the parents don't agree, allocation percentage is # of shifting enrollees claimed by claiming parent ÷ # of individuals enrolled in health plan with the shifting enrollees





- 3. Shifting enrollees: allocation percentage
- Example: Jane enrolls in a QHP with her 3
 children and receives APTC. But at tax time, 1 of
 the children is properly claimed by his father
 John.
 - Perhaps the family court ordered Jane to sign form 8332
- If Jane and John can't agree on an allocation percentage, it will be 25%.
 - One shifting enrollee divided by 4 people on that enrollee's health plan





3. Shifting enrollees

- It doesn't matter who actually paid the premiums. If John is entitled to claim one child, John is allocated 25% of the premiums that Jane paid.
- John must reconcile 25% of the advance premium tax credit payments paid towards Jane's plan.
- The benchmark is only allocated if APTC was paid.
 - Draft Form 8962 is not good on this point





3. Shifting enrollees

- The 1095-A will come to Jane; she will need to give a copy to John
- John and Jane could both claim a PTC on their separate returns, if they are unmarried
- Both would fill out Form 8962, Part 4, Shared Policy Allocation
- If John had his own QHP during 2014, he would add his 1095-A amounts to the allocated amounts for his child. See Form 8962, line 34.





- 4. Taxpayers filing as married filing separately or head of household
 - Treas. Reg. § 1.36B-4T(b)(4).
- Must allocate advance credit payments received as married
- If claiming PTC, must allocate premiums
- Benchmark plan premiums are not allocated
 - This is getting confusing!





- 4. Taxpayers filing as married filing separately or head of household
- Allocation percentage is 50%
 - Taxpayers not allowed to choose a different figure
- If the plan covers a time period during which only one taxpayer or his or her dependents was enrolled in the plan, then 100% is allocated to that taxpayer.





- 4. Taxpayers filing as married filing separately or head of household
- Form 1095-A will be sent to the person identified in exchange records as the tax filer
- Both taxpayers will complete form 8962 to reconcile APTC
 - Complete Part 4, shared policy allocation, except that the benchmark is not allocated





- 5. Health plan covers more than one tax household (from the get-go)
 - Treas. Reg. sec 1.36B-3(h)
 - Example: 25-year-old nondependent on a parent's plan
- APTC should have been calculated separately by the exchange; should not need allocating
- Benchmark premiums are not allocated
- Premiums paid are allocated





- 5. Health plan covers more than one tax household
- Premiums paid are allocated in proportion to the premiums for each taxpayer's benchmark plan
 - Mom, Dad, and their 25-year-old son Jeff are on a health plan with premiums of \$15,000. Mom & Dad's benchmark premium is \$12,000. Jeff's benchmark premium is \$6,000.
 - The premium allocated to Mom and Dad is \$10,000 (\$15,000 x \$12,000/\$18,000)





- 5. Health plan covers more than one tax household
- Notice again, it doesn't matter who actually pays the premiums. Jeff can claim his own PTC because he's not a tax dependent.
- Two forms 1095-A will be sent, to:
 - Mom or Dad, depending on who the exchange listed first on the account; and
 - Jeff





- 5. Health plan covers more than one tax household
- What will the forms 1095-A look like?
 - It depends on whether advance PTC payments were made. See draft instructions, page 2.
 - If advance payments were made, the forms 1095-A should be totally separate. The taxpayers should not need to do any allocating themselves.
 - If advance payments were not made, the forms 1095-A could be identical, and the taxpayers will need to allocate the premiums paid <u>and</u> figure out their correct benchmark premium





- Recap
 - There are slightly different rules for each of the allocation situations described above
- Form 8962 is not final
 - http://www.irs.gov/uac/Comment-on-Tax-Forms-and-Publications





Form 8	1962 (2014)					Page 2	
	4: Shared Policy A				to produce de la la companya de la c		
_	lete the following inform		shared policy allocations	s. See instruction	s for allocation details.		
	ed Policy Allocation						
30	 Policy Number (Fo 	rm 1095-A, line 2)	b SSN of taxpayer st	naring allocation	c Allocation start month	d Allocation stop month	
	Allocation percentag applied to monthly amounts	e. Pro	mium Percentage	£ SEC	SP Percentage 5	g. Advance Payment of the PTC Percentage	
Char	ed Policy Allocation			-			
	 Policy Number (Fo 		b SSN of taxpayer st	series stanting	e Allocation start month	d. Allocation stop month	
31	a Policy number gro	min 1000-A, tine 2)	B SSN of tarpayer si	taring arossoon	d Allocation start mores	d Alocation stop months	
	applied to monthly		emium Percentage £ BLC		SP Percentage	. Advance Payment of the PTC Percentage	
	amounts	-	1/	7		_	
Shan	ed Policy Allocation	3	-				
32	a Policy Number (Fo		b SGN of taxpayer st	aring allocation	 Allocation start month 	d Allocation stop month	
	Allocation percentag applied to monthly amounts	d to monthly		£ SLCSP Percentage		g. Advance Payment of the PTC Percentage	
Share	ed Policy Allocation	4					
33	a Policy Number (Fo	rm 1095-A, line 2)	b SSN of taxpayer st	naring allocation	g Allocation start month	d Allocation stop month	
	Allocation percentag applied to monthly amounts	ge e. Premium Percentage		t. SLCSP Percentage		g. Advance Payment of the PTC Percentage	
34	Mana uni completed	shared region alloca	tion information for all al	Incated Econo 1	005.42		
	Yes, Multiply the policies with amounts total for each month of	amounts on Form for non-allocated p in lines 12-23, colur	1095-A by the allocation officies from Forms 1090	n percentages er 5-A, if any, to co te the amounts f	stered by policy. Add alloca	ated amounts across all allocated each month. Enter the combined E, and continue to line 24.	
Соттр	5: Alternative Calc lete line(s) 35 and/or 38 mplete line(s) 35 and/or	to elect the alterna	tive calculation for year			on, see the instructions for line 9.	
35	Alternative entries for your SSN	a Alternative fam		and the second second second second second	Alternative start month	d. Alternative stop month	
36	Alternative entries for your spouse's SSN	Alternative fam	ily size b Monthly co	ontribution c	Alternative start month	d. Alternative stop month	
	33.93		- A			Frem 8962 (2014)	





IRS Procedures and Due Process

Premium Tax Credit

- For income tax and certain related credits and penalties, taxpayers have a statutory right to pre-assessment judicial review
 - 26 U.S.C. § 6211 includes the Premium Tax Credit at (b)(4)
- IRS cannot change those items without giving appeal rights
- Message to clients: Don't file a tax return you believe is wrong!
 - You are self-assessing tax by putting it on your return. IRS can start collecting immediately.
 - Tax returns are signed under penalties of perjury.
 - An amended return might work later, but...
 - Discretionary, no appeal
 - Need documents to support changes; scrutinized much more closely than an original return





IRS Collections and Due Process

Individual Shared Responsibility Payment

- IRS cannot use the Notice of Federal Tax Lien, levies, or criminal penalties to collect the ISRP
 - 26 U.S.C. § 5000A(g)(2)
- But... there is no statutory right to pre-assessment judicial review
- We don't know yet what pre-assessment administrative review IRS will offer, if any
- Post-assessment options:
 - Amended return
 - Audit reconsideration
 - Offer in compromise (26 U.S.C. § 7122)
 - Pay the tax and file a refund claim
 - This is the only way to get judicial review of the ISRP
 - 26 U.S.C. §§ 6511, 7422





Questions?

Resources:

- NHeLP's The Advocate's Guide to MAGI, available at www.healthlaw.org
- Vermont Legal Aid's Low-Income Taxpayers and the Affordable Care Act available at www.vtlawhelp.org
- Nationwide list of Low-income Taxpayer Clinics: <u>http://www.irs.gov/Advocate/Low-Income-Taxpayer-Clinics/Low-Income-Taxpayer-Clinic-Map</u>

Contact:

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THANK YOU

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