BlueCross BlueShield Nebraska

Paying for your health coverage

You shouldn't have to choose between buying health coverage for your family and buying groceries. We understand that paying for health coverage can be stressful, which is why we are here to help you understand your options for paying for health coverage.

Advanced Premium Tax Credits

Depending on your estimated household income, you may qualify for help paying your premium – the amount you pay each month for your insurance plan. This is called an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC), but you may also hear it referred to as a subsidy.

Basically, the APTC is a tax credit that is paid in advance. If you qualify for a subsidy, the federal government sends payments directly to your health insurance company to reduce your monthly premium.

When you apply for coverage on the Health Insurance Marketplace®, your eligibility for APTC will be determined based on your estimated income for the year. Keep in mind that at tax time, if you've taken more APTC than you're due based on your final income, you may have to pay back the excess when you file your federal return. To avoid this, make sure to let the health exchange (Marketplace) know about any income or family composition changes during the year.

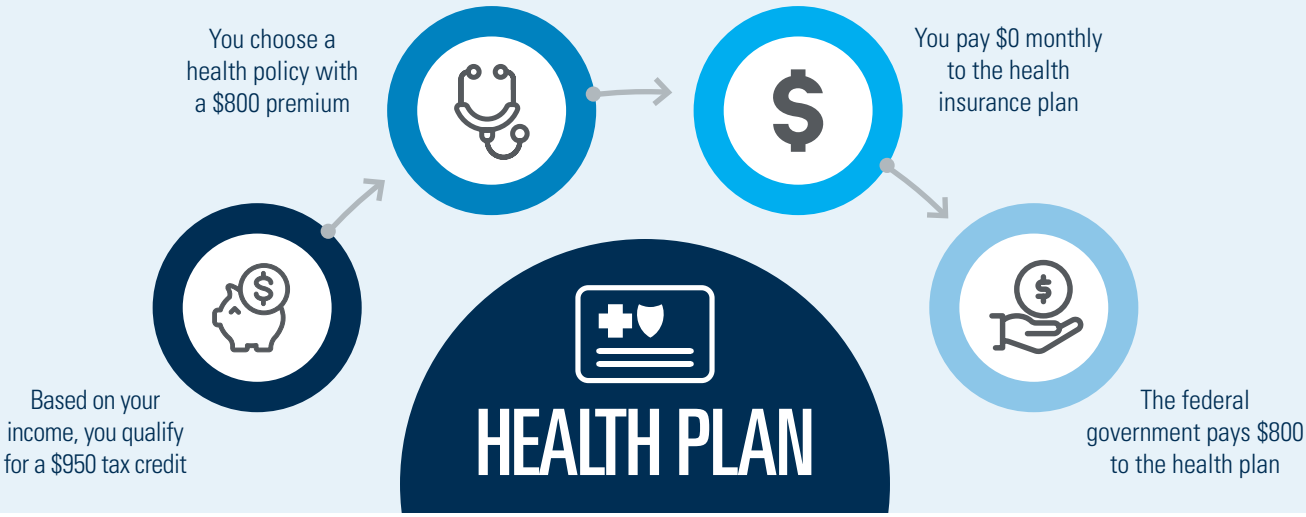
Cost-Sharing Reductions

When you fill out an application on the Health Insurance Marketplace® and find out if you qualify for an APTC, you can also see if you qualify for extra savings known as Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSR). This allows you to save additional money by paying less out of pocket when you get medical services. A CSR is only applicable to plans in the silver category.

If you qualify for a CSR and enroll in a silver plan, you may have:

- **A lower deductible** – this is the amount you pay out of pocket before your health insurance begins to pay
- **Lower copayments or coinsurance** – This is what you pay each time you get care. Either a copay, which is a fixed dollar amount for covered services (like an office visit), or coinsurance, which is a percentage of the bill you pay after your deductible is met.
- **Lower out-of-pocket maximum** – this is the total amount you pay out of pocket in a year for covered services. It is typically a combination of your deductible, coinsurance and copays.

When you qualify for a CSR, you'll see exactly what your out-of-pocket costs will be when you shop for a silver plan.



- If you'd like a quote, or are ready to apply for coverage, call one of our licensed sales agents at **844-665-1121**.

*For illustrative purposes only

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