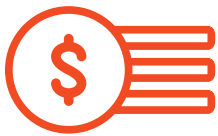


Help with healthcare costs

Getting and using health insurance may come with costs. And figuring out what you might have to pay and when can be confusing. Access Health CT is here to help you understand common health insurance terms you might see.



Can I get help paying for my health insurance?

Many people qualify for financial help to lower their monthly bills or what they have to pay when they visit a doctor. You may even get health insurance at no cost. Financial help is determined by your household income, how many people live in your household and your home address. You may qualify for HUSKY Health (Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)), which provides free or low-cost coverage. You may also qualify for the Covered CT Program, which provides no-cost health insurance, dental coverage and some transportation benefits.

If you don't meet the requirements for HUSKY Health or the Covered CT Program, you may still be able to get help paying for your health insurance through Access Health CT.



How do I know if I qualify?

The first step is to fill out and submit an application. We'll help you figure out what programs you qualify for and how much money you may get to help lower your costs.



How does financial help lower my costs?

Depending on your household income, you may qualify for a tax credit or Cost-Sharing Reductions to help lower your healthcare costs.

- A Premium Tax Credit (PTC) is money from the federal government to lower the cost of your health insurance premium. You can claim it as a credit when you file your federal income tax return, but many people choose to take this tax credit in advance, known as an Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC). Your APTC will be paid out in equal installments each month to your insurance company to lower your monthly premium bills.
- You may also qualify for Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs). CSRs will help you lower what you have to pay when you use a health care service (copay), how much you have to pay before your insurance company starts to pay (deductible), and what you have to pay after you have met your deductible (coinsurance).

Important terms to know

Premium: The monthly cost of having health or dental insurance. It is billed by your insurance company every month and must be paid even if you don't use your insurance. Your first premium must be paid before your policy can begin.

Copayment (copay): The amount you have to pay when you use a healthcare service. It is usually a fixed amount (for example, \$15) and is often paid when you receive the service.

Deductible: The amount of healthcare services you have to pay for before your insurance will start to pay. Some services are covered before you meet your deductible.

Coinsurance: Your share of healthcare costs after you meet your deductible.

Out-of-Pocket Maximum:
The maximum amount you will have to pay out-of-pocket for healthcare services in a year, not including your premium. Once you reach this amount, your insurance will pay for all remaining services.