

The Commonwealth of Kentucky
kynect State-Based Marketplace



**State-Based Marketplace Policy
and Procedures for Agents and
kynectors Training Guide**

June 21st, 2024

Document Control Information

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Introduction

This course highlights some of the policies and procedures established by KHBE for the implementation and operation of Kentucky's State-Based Marketplace (SBM) utilizing the kynect health coverage system. Agents and kynectors need to familiarize themselves with the policy and procedures to better assist Residents in applying for kynect health coverage.

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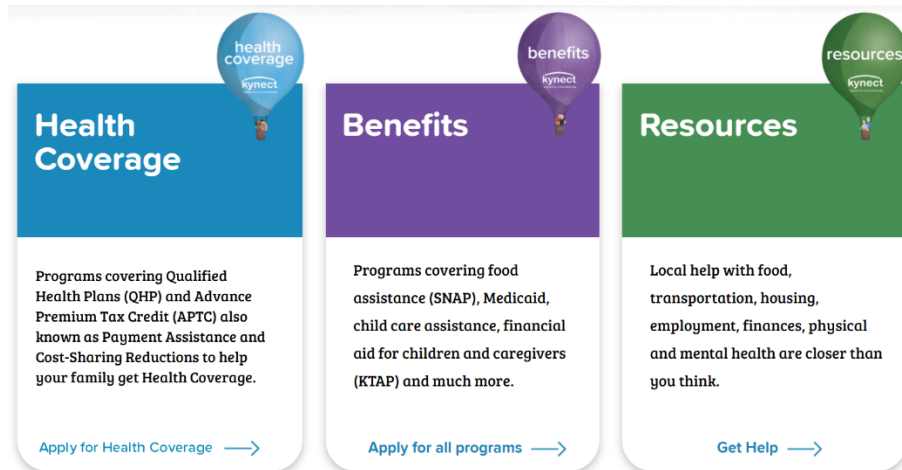
Please note: Screenshots may not be representative of actual system behavior. All specific information found in this training guide is test data and not representative of any kynect client.

1 kynect health coverage Overview

kynect health coverage is Kentucky's State-Based Health Insurance Marketplace (SBM). kynect health coverage is a one-stop-shop enabling Kentucky Residents to enroll in a range of health coverage options, including Medicaid (MA), Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC), Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs), Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP), and Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment (KI-HIPP) Program. Additionally, small employers are able to determine their eligibility to enroll in Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) plans. Agents and kynectors assist Residents, families, and small employers in navigating the SBM and the range of coverage options it provides.

1.1 kynect health coverage

kynect offers Residents and small employers an integrated eligibility and enrollment process into Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and other health insurance affordability programs. Agents and kynectors assist Residents with the eligibility and enrollment process by using kynect's portals.



1.2 Single Application

With a single application, Individuals and families can determine eligibility for Medicaid (MA), Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC), Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs), Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP), Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment (KI-HIPP) Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP), and Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Employers will also be able to apply for the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) and browse plans.

1.3 What are Residents eligible for?

kynect is an online portal that is used to determine eligibility for:

- Medicaid (MA)

- Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)
- Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC)
- Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs)
- Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP)
- KY Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment (KI-HIPP) Program
- Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP)



1.4 Health Coverage Portals

Agents and kynectors should be familiar with the following health coverage portals:

- Issuer Portal
- Agent Portal
- Self-Service Portal
- Worker Portal

Issuer Portal

An Issuer is an insurance company, insurance servicer, carrier, or insurance organization [including a health maintenance organization (HMO)]. Issuer Portal is a self-service, one-stop shop that provides Issuer organizations with the ability to directly access consumer kynect health coverage data, manage Qualified Health Plan (QHP) data, and access informational resources.

Agent Portal

The Agent Portal provides Health Insurance Agents with a customer management tool to help manage and create new business in Kentucky. The Agent Portal provides the ability to quickly manage existing accounts. Agents can create new Residents' accounts, browse plans, generate useful reports, and view all incoming kynect health coverage notifications/announcements, and create quotes.

Self-Service Portal

kynectors, Agents, and Contact Center staff use the kynect Self-Service Portal (SSP) to assist Residents with benefits applications for any of the available programs. The Resident enters basic demographic information for all household members, provides information on: citizenship, marital/relationship status, tax filing status, household income, and selects the programs for which they are applying. With the assistance of Agents and kynectors, through SSP Residents can get pre-screened, file an application for benefits (including Medicaid, Qualified Health Plans, and much more), review and compare QHPs, and select a QHP using a Consumer-Friendly Decision Tool.

Worker Portal

Worker Portal is used by the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) staff to process eligibility and enrollment for various programs such as Medicaid (MA), Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (KTAP), and Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

1.5 Who is Eligible for Coverage through the State-Based Marketplace?

Individuals applying for health coverage must:

1. Be Residents of Kentucky
2. Be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawfully present immigrants for the entire time they plan to have coverage*
3. Not be incarcerated (unless pending disposition of charges)

Please note: Requirements for Medicaid (MA) are slightly different than requirements for other health care affordability programs.

1.6 When to Enroll

Eligible Residents can enroll in or change kynect health coverage plans during the annual Open Enrollment Period (OEP) or during a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). For Residents and families, the OEP typically starts around November 1st. Specific dates for Open Enrollment are determined by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) each year.



2 Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)

A QHP is a health coverage plan certified by the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange (KHBE) that meets Affordable Care Act (ACA) requirements for essential health benefits. QHPs are categorized by Metal Level to help Residents compare plans. The four QHP metal levels are: **Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.**

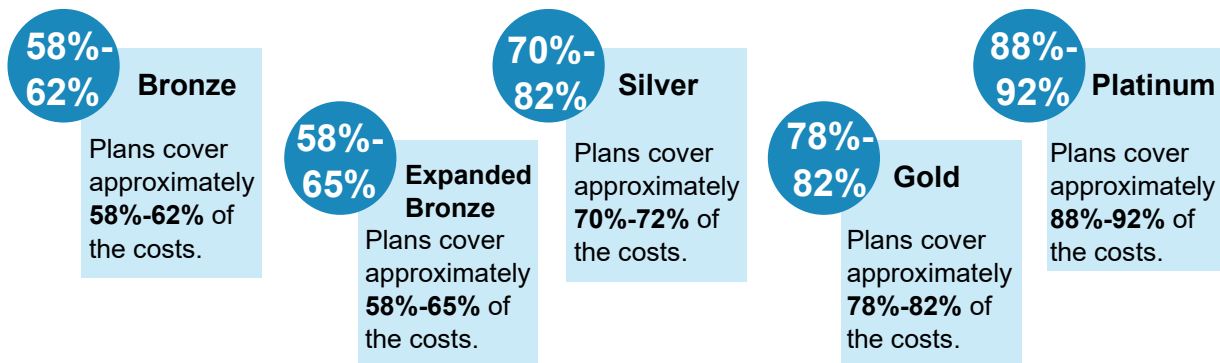
2.1 QHP Eligibility Requirements

Below are the eligibility requirements for the Qualified Health Plans:

- 1 Be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawfully present non-citizens and be reasonably expected to be so for the entire time they plan to have health coverage.
- 2 Not be incarcerated (unless pending the disposition of charges).
- 3 Live and plan to stay in Kentucky.
 - Residents may apply for QHPs at any time during the year, but the Residents can only enroll in a QHP during Open Enrollment (OE) and Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs).
 - Residents receiving Medicare are not eligible to purchase a QHP or receive Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC).

2.2 QHP Metal Levels

QHP metal levels are based on each plan's Actuarial Value (AV) – that is, the percentage of total average costs for covered benefits that a plan will cover. QHP metal levels do not reflect the quality or amount of care the plans provide. The percentage an enrollee pays for benefits under plans in each metal level is an “average” for a typical population. These percentages do not necessarily reflect the exact amount an enrollee will pay for a particular service when using a specific plan.



2.3 Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Enrollment

Individuals who are looking for affordable health coverage may enroll in a Qualified Health Plan (QHP) via kynect health coverage. Individuals may apply for QHPs at any time during the year, **but Individuals can only enroll in a QHP during Open Enrollment (OE) and Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs).**

2.4 Discontinue a QHP Plan

The steps below walkthrough the discontinue process for a QHP plan



Step 1

Navigate to the Benefits Page

Active & Pending Cases

Case #113023543

Report a Change

Discontinue Benefits

Post Applications

Disqualifications, Penalties, & Suspensions

Qualified Health Plans (QHP)

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN

Approved

Type: Qualified Health Plan

Benefit Period: 07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC)

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN

Approved

Type: Advanced Premium Tax Credits

Benefit Period: 07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Cost Sharing Reduction Category: C

In the upper right corner you will see the **Discontinue Benefits** Option.

Step 2

Discontinue Benefits Page

Discontinue Benefits

Case #113023543

On discontinuing this benefit, the Commonwealth of Kentucky will no longer provide you assistance.

Select the program and the household member to discontinue benefits.

☒ Medicaid/KCHIP/Qualified Health Plan with payment assistance (APTC)

☒ WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN

☐ QHP (Medical and Dental insurance plans without payment assistance)

Reason for discontinuation of benefit(s)

Select

Discontinue Benefits

Cancel

Select the program and the household member to discontinue benefits

Step 3

Discontinue Benefits Page

Discontinue Benefits
Case # 13023543

On discontinuing this benefit, the Commonwealth of Kentucky will no longer provide you assistance.

Select the program and the household member to discontinue benefits.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid/KCHIP/Qualified Health Plan with payment assistance (APTC)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	QHP (Medical and Dental Insurance plans without payment assistance)

Reason for discontinuation of benefit(s)

Select

Selected

Client Request

Moved Out of State

Discontinue Benefits Cancel

Select the reason for discontinuation of benefits.

Step 4

Discontinue Benefits Page

Discontinue Benefits
Case # 13024871

On discontinuing this benefit, the Commonwealth of Kentucky will no longer provide you assistance.

Select the program and the household member to discontinue benefits.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medicaid/KCHIP/Qualified Health Plan with payment assistance (APTC)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN
<input type="checkbox"/>	QHP (Medical and Dental Insurance plans without payment assistance)

Reason for discontinuation of benefit(s)

Select

Selected

Client Request

Moved Out of State

Discontinue Benefits Cancel

Discontinue Benefit(s)

On discontinuing benefit(s), the Commonwealth of Kentucky will no longer provide these benefit(s):

- Medicaid/KCHIP/Qualified Health Plan with payment assistance (APTC)

Are you sure you want to discontinue the benefits above?

Yes, Discontinue Benefits

No, Cancel

Click on **Yes, Discontinue benefits.**

Step 5

Discontinue Benefits Page

Active & Pending Cases

Case #113023543

Qualified Health Plans (QHP)

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN
Approved

Type: Qualified Health Plan Benefit Period: 07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC)

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN
Approved

Type: Advanced Premium Tax Credits Benefit Period: 07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Cost Sharing Reduction Category: C

The discontinuance of benefits takes a few minutes, and the changes may not be reflected immediately in the Benefits page.

Step 6

Discontinue Benefits Page

View details on your benefits application, cases, and benefits.

View your to-do list and messages.

Benefits →

Case#: 113023543 Active

Approved Pending Interview Pending Verification

Qualified Health Plans

Health Plans →

Not Enrolled Enrolled

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN

Message Center →

To Do's Unread

0 1

Due this week 0 Notices

New 3 Announcements

1 Notifications

Reps, Kynectors, & Agents →

Authorized Representative
Give a trusted friend or family member access to your case or application.

Kynector

The changes will be reflected in the dashboard as shown above.

Active & Pending Cases

Inactive Cases

Case #113023543

[Report a Change](#) ...

Qualified Health Plans (QHP)

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN

Approved

Type: Qualified Health Plan

Benefit Period: 07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

Advanced Premium Tax Credits (APTC)

WILLIAMSON ARCHIE MARTIN

Discontinued

Type: Advanced Premium Tax Credits

Effective Date: 08/01/2022

Reason - Client Request: You asked us to stop your benefits. Eligibility is denied

Once you sign-out and log back in two to three minutes later, the benefits page will display the discontinued program benefit.

Please note: Discontinuing QHP eligibility does not disenroll an individual from their QHP, this must be done from the Enrollment Manager Module (EMM).

2.5 Disenrolling or Cancelling a Plan

Disenrolling or cancelling a plan is the process completed within the Enrollment Manager Module for Individuals to cancel their policy before the Coverage Effective Date or select a date to be disenrolled.

Edit Members

Make edits below to add or remove members from this plan.

Enrolled Members

Enrolled

Enrolled

Policy Holder

Enrolled

Please choose from the below available options:

Disenroll

Cancel

Coverage End Date

05/31/2022

Select Members

Add New Member

Cancel

Cancelling a Plan	Disenrolling from a Plan
The "Cancel" radio button will be enabled for selection up until the Coverage Effective Date and will be disabled after the Coverage Effective Date. Once the "Cancel" button is selected, the Coverage End Date will be automatically populated and disabled for any edits. When a plan is cancelled, it is cancelled entirely with no days of coverage.	Selecting the "Disenroll" radio button will allow the Individual to select a Coverage End Date for their health plan. When an Individual is disenrolled, they have at least one day of coverage.

2.6 Vision Coverage

kynect offers access to vision coverage to Kentuckians through a partnership with insurance companies that offer vision benefits. Individuals can enroll directly through an insurance company. Qualified Health Plans offered through kynect include some vision benefits for children under the age of 21. Vision plan enrollments are not directly through kynect health coverage, and Individuals can enroll in vision plans at any time throughout the year.

kynect
health coverage

Programs Reps, kynectors, & Agents Help & FAQs

Sign In

Language: English (English)

VISION CARE

Vision Care

Adult Vision Coverage:

kynect offers access to vision coverage to Kentuckians through a partnership with insurance companies that offer vision benefits. Adults can enroll directly through an insurance company. Qualified Health Plans offered through kynect include some vision benefits for children under the age of 21. We recommend you review the plan benefits to find the best coverage for you and your family.

Vision plan enrollments are not directly through kynect health coverage, please see below to browse options and enroll in vision coverage. Individuals can enroll in vision plans at any time throughout the year.

Your Coverage Options

Vision Service Plan (VSP)

VSP individual vision plans

As a vision care member, you'll receive access to great eye doctors, quality eye wear, and affordability you deserve, all at low out-of-pocket costs. To browse and enroll in vision care, visit [VSP website](#)

Anthem Vision (Blue View Vision)

Anthem

We all want to connect more with what matters most in our lives – and our health is at the heart of it all. When you choose Anthem for your vision coverage, you can feel confident your eye health is supported by a name you know and trust. With Blue View Vision, you can choose from more than 39,000 eye doctors and other eye care providers at over 28,000 locations.* Our network is one of the largest in the country, so you will be able to receive your eye care and eyewear just about anywhere.

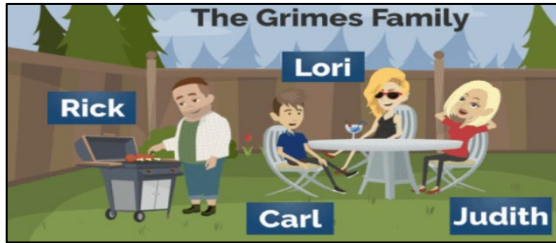
2.7 Catastrophic Health Plan Coverage

A catastrophic plan generally provides coverage for three (3) primary care visits, preventive services with no cost sharing, and no other benefits for the plan year until the enrollee has incurred cost-sharing expenses in an amount equal to the annual limit. These policies usually have lower premiums, but the enrollee must pay for all out-of-pocket health coverage costs until they reach the plan's annual deductible.

If the Enrollee buys a catastrophic plan, the Enrollee is not eligible to receive Payment Assistance, such as Advance Premium Tax Credit and Cost-Sharing Reductions. The Enrollee pays the premium quoted by the insurance company. Only Enrollees under the age of 30 or Enrollees over the age of 30 who have a hardship exemption may enroll in catastrophic coverage.

2.8 Qualified Health Plan Scenarios

The scenarios below describe various household situations that may arise when assisting with applications. Pay close attention to the details of the scenarios.



Resident Information

Rick is 52 years old and works as an independent engineering consultant. He works at a large engineering firm that does not offer Employer-Sponsored Insurance (ESI). He wants to enroll his entire family in a QHP. Rick expects to earn **\$86,000**.

Lori is 49 years old and does not work outside the home.

Judith is 23 years old and lives at home with her parents. **Judith's parents claim her as a tax dependent.**

Carl is 19 years old and is a full-time student at an out-of-state college. **Carl's parents claim him as a tax dependent.**

ESI, tax filing status, and income do not impact eligibility for QHPs. However, tax filing status impacts QHP enrollment.

How should the Grimes household apply for a kynect health coverage plan that will cover all members of the family?

Next Steps for the Grimes Family

- Yes, the Grimes household can file one kynect health coverage application.
- Both Judith and Carl should be listed as tax dependents since they will be claimed on their parents' federal income tax return.
- Because Carl attends college out-of-state, his college address may be provided, but he will only be able to enroll through kynect if he lists his parents' address as his permanent address and he is their tax dependent.
- The Grimes should enter all income for the parents and children on the kynect health coverage application. kynect health coverage will determine whether income from the tax dependent children counts.

2.9 Affordability of Employer Sponsored Insurance (ESI) Scenarios

Affordability of Employer Sponsored Insurance (ESI) is based on the cost of **employee only coverage**. The coverage must meet a minimum value of **60%** that is covered under the plan (total cost of benefits expected to be incurred under the plan). Employer-Sponsored Insurance (ESI) is considered to be affordable if the contribution required to cover the employee only (not a spouse or dependents) is less than around **9 percent** (this percentage is updated annually) of the employee's household income. The scenario below describes household situations that may arise when assisting Kentuckians with applications. Pay close attention to the details of the scenario.

Resident Information

Davey has a family of 6 and works at a local logistics company making **\$65,000** annually.

Davey has an Employer-Sponsored Insurance offer. The plan he is offered covers **80 percent** of his total allowable health care costs and includes substantial coverage of physician and inpatient hospital services.

Davey decided to enroll in his ESI coverage. Davey is **not** eligible for APTC. The ESI plan offered covers more than **60 percent** of total allowable costs and includes substantial coverage of physician and inpatient hospital services, which meets the minimum value standard.

Davey decides to enroll himself in the lowest-priced plan his employer offers for self-only coverage, which is **\$300** per month.

Davey's children are **not** KCHIP eligible, and his spouse is not eligible for any Financial Assistance.

However, Davey needs to enroll his family into health coverage as well and is exploring his options.



Davey would like to extend his ESI coverage to his spouse and children. Will this be an affordable option for Davey and his family?

ESI Scenario Decision

- **No**, Davey **will not** add his family to his ESI, and his family will apply for health coverage through kynect.
- **Family size impacts the affordability of ESI.** The affordability test is based on Davey's coverage alone, not taking into account the coverage of his family.
- Davey has a family of 6. Adding his 5 family members on his ESI will significantly increase his premium. Although his premium is only **\$3,600/year** for his own ESI, his premium could be **\$13,000+ for his full family per year with dependent coverage.**
- Although his employee-only premium is **\$300 per month**, adding his spouse and children to his plan will cost over **\$1300 per month**. Even though this amount is much higher, the Employer Sponsored Insurance is still considered affordable because of affordability rules set forth by the IRS. **The employee-only premium is the only amount considered.** Under current rules, no member of Davey's family qualifies for tax credits.

3 Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Methodology

MAGI is a simplified method for determining income eligibility for Medicaid, Cost Sharing Reductions (CSRs), Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP), and Payment Assistance programs (APTC) available through kynect health coverage. MAGI is used to determine how income is counted and how household composition and family size are considered when determining eligibility for:

- **Advance Premium Tax Credits**
- **Most people in Medicaid**

MAGI methodology is used for MAGI Medicaid (MA) and Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC). This section will highlight the impacts to Medicaid (MA).

3.1 Tax Filer and Non-Tax Filer

Agents and kynectors assist Residents with different tax filing statuses. Tax filing status is used in determining eligibility. Therefore, it is essential that the Resident gives accurate information regarding their status. Once designated as either **Filer** or **Non-Filer**, a household size can be constructed for each eligible Individual. An Individual does **NOT** have to be applying for assistance to be included in a household.

Tax Filer	Non-Tax Filer
A Resident who intends to file an income tax return for the current benefit year and cannot be claimed as a dependent by another Resident.	A Resident who does not intend to file taxes for the current benefit year.



3.2 Tax Filing Scenarios

The scenarios below describe household situations that Agents and kynectors may see when assisting Residents with applications. Pay close attention to the details of each scenario before moving forward to the scenario's questions.

Resident Information

Jimmy is a full-time student who does not work or intend to file taxes. He does not live with his parents; however, he is being claimed as a dependent on his parents' taxes who are filing jointly.



For MAGI Medicaid, each Individual is designated as either Filer or Non-Filer based on their tax filing status. Make sure to evaluate each member of the household to determine tax filing status.

Who is a tax filer in this household?

- Jimmy's parents are both tax filers since they intend to file taxes.

Who is a tax dependent in this household?

- Jimmy is a tax dependent even though he does not live with his parents. However, they will be claiming him on their taxes.

Who is a non-filer in this household?

- Since Jimmy is being claimed as a dependent by his parents who are filing their taxes, there are no non-filers in the household.

Resident Information

Carter and Kelsey are married without children. Both Carter and Kelsey work and intend to file taxes. However, Carter and Kelsey will be **filing taxes separately**.



For MAGI Medicaid, each Individual is designated as either Filer or Non-Filer based on their tax filing status. Make sure to evaluate each member of the household to determine tax filing status.

Who is a tax filer in this household?

- Carter and Kelsey are both tax filers since they intend to file taxes and are not claimed as tax dependents by someone else.

Who should be listed in the household together?

- Carter and Kelsey should be listed in the same household regardless if they file taxes jointly or separately since they are married and living together.

Who is a non-filer in this household?

- There is not a non-filer in the household.

4 Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC)

Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC), also called Payment Assistance, **helps lower the monthly cost of health insurance for eligible Individuals**. Eligible Individuals receive APTC when enrolling in a plan through kynect health coverage. **APTC eligibility is determined using MAGI methodology**.

4.1 APTC Eligibility

Individuals and families may be eligible for APTC depending on their income and family size in relation to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Individuals may apply for APTC at any time and be determined to be eligible. However, the Individual may not be able to apply the APTC if it is outside of the Open Enrollment (OE) period and they do not have a Special Enrollment reason.

To be eligible for APTC an Individual must:

- Have a gross household income that falls between **100%** and **400%** and above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- NOT be eligible for Minimal Essential Coverage (MEC)

- **Please note:** Employer-provided coverage is considered affordable for an employee if the employee required contribution is no more than 9.12 percent (as of 2023) of that employee's household income. For more information on employer affordability please [click here](#).
- Not be incarcerated
- Be a Resident of Kentucky
- Be a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the United States
 - **Please note:** If a Resident is a lawfully present immigrant and is determined ineligible for Medicaid (MA) due to immigration status, they may be eligible for kynect health coverage with payment assistance, even though their household income may be below **100%** of the FPL.

4.2 APTC Income Limits

For Residents of Kentucky, the following chart illustrates when household income would be at **100 percent** or above the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). The FPL chart is updated annually. You can find an updated copy on the KHBE Website on the [Facts & Resources page](#).

Household Size	Household Income that's above 100% of the FPL.
One Resident	\$13,596 (100%) and up to above the FPL
Family of Two	\$18,312 (100%) and up to above the FPL
Family of Four	\$27,756 (100%) up to above the FPL

4.3 How Does the Resident Qualify for APTC?

When a Resident applies for kynect health coverage, the system estimates the amount of Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) that the Resident may be able to claim for the tax year. kynect health coverage uses information the Resident provides about their family size and projected household income, and the Resident's/family members' eligibility for other financial assistance programs.

Based upon that estimate, the Resident can decide if they want to have all, some, or none of their estimated APTC paid in advance directly to their insurance company to lower their monthly premiums. If a Resident receives too much APTC during the year they may be required to pay it back on their taxes.

4.4 Mid-Month Rule



If you take the Advance Premium Tax Credit, changes to your family size or income - or even a new job that offers health insurance - could mean you are getting the wrong amount of APTC. If you report a change on or before the 15th of the month, that change will go into effect on the first of the next month. If you report after the 15th of the month, then it will not go into effect until the following month. For example, if you report the change on July 22nd the change will go into effect on September 1st. This is called the Mid-Month Rule.

4.5 Why Would my Premium Be Increasing This Year?

There are several factors that may impact a Residents Individual contribution. Two of these factors are Issuers rates may change year over year and changes in federal law. Additionally, APTC benefits are calculated based on the Second-Lowest Cost Silver Plan (SLCSP), and benefits are adjusted proportionally based on changes to the SLCSP premium.

If a Residents income or household size change this may also affect their Individual Contribution. For more examples of why individuals premium may be increasing navigate to the [KHBE Facts & Resources page](#) and click on the Why My Individual Contribution May Be Lower or Higher fact sheet.

Please note: At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government declared a Public Health Emergency (PHE). During the PHE, Medicaid agencies were required to continue health care coverage for members even if their eligibility changed, they failed to update their account information or did not submit the required paperwork. The PHE ended on May 11, 2023, and Residents must complete Medicaid renewals to redetermine eligibility for Medicaid or a Qualified Health Plan (QHP). If Residents are no longer eligible for Medicaid, it is considered a qualifying event to initiate a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to enroll in a QHP if found eligible.

To initiate a SEP, there are specific selection(s) for this scenario. From November 2023 through April 2024, **PHE Unwinding** has been added as a qualifying event for a SEP. Prior to November 2023, once kynect identifies that a Resident has lost Medicaid, **Loss of Medicaid** automatically displays to select as a qualifying event for a SEP. If **Loss of Medicaid** does not automatically display, Residents may select, **Will lose qualified health insurance coverage in the next 60 days** as a qualifying event for SEP. If Residents encounter any issues, they can apply for an Exceptional Special Enrollment.

For more information, please review the [Public Health Emergency Unwinding Page](#) and the [Special Enrollment Fact Sheet](#).

4.6 Requirements to Reconcile

When a taxpayer files their tax return, the taxpayer’s APTC will be reconciled with what the taxpayer should have received, using actual household income and family size for the tax year.

<div data-bbox="748 224 849 327"></div> <div data-bbox="841 310 1115 604">If Residents use more APTC than they qualify for based on final yearly income, they may be required to repay the difference when they file their federal income tax return.</div>	<div data-bbox="1398 254 1503 285"></div> <div data-bbox="1182 310 1456 506">If Residents use less APTC than they qualify for, they will get the difference as a refundable credit when they file their taxes.</div>
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4.7 Advance Premium Tax Credit Scenario

The scenario below describes a household situation that Agents and kynectors may see when assisting Kentuckians with applications. Pay close attention to the details of the scenario.



Resident Information

Maria and her husband Jeff have no dependents and were making \$4,310 a month, which is **306 percent** of the FPL. They are enrolled in a kynect health coverage plan **with APTC**.

Jeff loses his job as a bartender at a restaurant and their household income drops to **\$3,592** a month.

Should Jeff and Maria report the change to kynect health coverage and potentially receive more APTC?

Next Steps for the Manning Family

- Jeff and Maria **should report the change** in income to kynect health coverage. Because of the reduction in income, they may be eligible for more APTC, but they do not need to apply any increased APTC to their current coverage.
- If they increase their APTC and soon after the increase in APTC, Jeff finds a job with pay at or above the level of his prior job, they risk having to pay back some portion of their APTC when they file their taxes.
- If so, they could choose to take the increased APTC, or, since Jeff thinks he will soon find a job paying at least as much as his bartending job, they may decide to maintain their APTC at the present level.

4.8 Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs)

Depending on the Individual's circumstances, they may be eligible for Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSR), commonly called **special discounts**, which are extra savings that reduce out-of-pocket costs. CSRs lower the amount that Individuals pay for expenses like copays, deductibles, and will decrease out-of-pocket maximums. The savings are only applicable to Silver Level Plans. A Silver Level Plan is a category of a Qualified Health Plan (QHP).

- **Individuals and families with incomes up to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) may be eligible to receive CSRs.**
- There are also non-income-based CSRs available to members of federally recognized tribes (for all QHP metal level plans: Bronze, Expanded Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum).
- American Indians or Alaska Natives who are members of a federally recognized tribe receive Cost-Sharing Reductions using different income guidelines and can receive CSRs in any QHP metal level plan: Bronze, Expanded Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.



4.8.1 Cost-Sharing Reductions Scenario

The scenario below describes a household situation that may arise when assisting Kentuckians with applications. Pay close attention to the details of the scenario.

Resident Information

Grace is a single 30-year-old with no dependents who works at a local coffee shop. Her employer **does not** offer health insurance and she has asked you to help her apply for health coverage through kynect.

Grace currently makes **\$20,000** a year, which is between **150 percent and 200 percent of the FPL**.



Based on her income only, which programs will Grace likely be eligible for when she submits her application through kynect health coverage?

- Advanced Premium Tax Credit
- Cost-Sharing Reductions
- KCHIP
- Medicaid

Next Steps for Grace

- The correct answers are **A** and **B**. Grace is likely above the income levels for Medicaid but within the income range for Financial Assistance through kynect health coverage.
- It's likely that Grace will be eligible for **APTC** and **Cost-Sharing Reductions** if she enrolls in a **Silver plan** through kynect health coverage for Individuals and families.

Marketplace Low Deductible Silver	Silver	D	Zero Cost Sharing Plan Variation	02	Native American under 300%	1
Marketplace Low Deductible Silver	Silver	E	Limited Cost Sharing Plan Variation	03	Native American over 300%	0.713982508355956
Marketplace Low Deductible Silver	Silver	C	73% AV Level Silver Plan	04		0.739876466267896
Marketplace Low Deductible Silver	Silver	B	87% AV Level Silver Plan	05		0.878763558022386
Marketplace Low Deductible Silver	Silver	A	94% AV Level Silver Plan	06		0.947311040582178

kynect health coverage Silver Plans

To the left are examples of Silver Plans in kynect health coverage.

Please note: American Indians or Alaska Natives who are members of a federally recognized tribe are eligible for Cost-Sharing Reductions using different income guidelines and their Cost-Sharing Reductions are available in all QHP metal levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

5 Medicaid (MA)

Medicaid (MA) is a program funded jointly by states and the federal government that provides health coverage for some low-income Individuals, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Medicaid (MA) is administered by states, according to federal requirements.

MAGI Medicaid	Non-MAGI Medicaid
Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medicaid is extended to adults and children who meet certain technical and financial eligibility factors for Medicaid.	Medicaid eligibility is determined using traditional methodology. This includes Individuals receiving Medicaid who are aged, blind, or disabled.

5.1 MAGI Medicaid Eligibility

Income eligibility for Medicaid is determined using the MAGI methodology that uses taxable income minus specific deductions, such as, but not limited to, student loan interest, educator expenses, and alimony. MAGI methodology is used to determine eligibility for:

- **Children**
- **Pregnant women**
- **Parent/caretaker relatives**
- **Low-income adults between the ages 19-64**

5.2 Income Considerations for MAGI Medicaid

The following steps highlight information on how income is determined for Residents who are applying for MAGI Medicaid (MA).



MAGI INCOME 1**Verifying Income**

Income is considered verified for MAGI Medicaid (MA) when the Resident-stated income amount is reasonably compatible with the amount received from state and federal data sources. Reasonable compatibility is defined as no more than **25 percent** difference between the self-attested amount and the information returned by the state and federal data sources.

MAGI INCOME 2**Income Calculation**

Income Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is all of the income an Individual earns, minus certain adjustments.

To calculate Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), take an Individual's AGI and add-back certain deductions. Many of these deductions are rare, so it is possible an Individual's AGI and MAGI can be identical. Different credit and deductions can have differing add-backs for your MAGI calculation. According to the IRS, an Individual's MAGI is their AGI with the addition of the appropriate deductions, which may include:

- Student loan interest
- One-half of self-employment tax
- Qualified tuition expenses
- Tuition and fees deduction
- Passive loss or passive income
- IRA contributions
- Non-taxable social security payments
- The exclusion for income from U.S. savings bonds
- Foreign earned income exclusion
- Foreign housing exclusion or deduction
- The exclusion under 137 for adoption expenses
- Rental losses
- Any overall loss from a publicly traded partnership

MAGI INCOME 3**Countable vs. Non-Countable**

The table lists the types of countable and non-countable income used to determine eligibility for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medicaid (MA). Dependents' income should only be counted if the dependent is required to file taxes.

Countable Income	Non-Countable Income
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wages, salaries, tips, bonuses, awards • Income derived from gifts/inheritances • Interest income (taxable and non-taxable) • Farm income • Ordinary dividends • Alimony/Spousal support • Business income • Capital gains • IRA distributions • Pensions and annuities • Unemployment compensation • Social Security benefits (taxable and non-taxable) • Railroad retirement • Gambling winnings • Jury duty payments • Foreign earned income • Rental income • Lump sum income (Retro Social Security/Railroad Retirement) • Royalties • State agency payments received for child care • Waiver payments issued to individual care providers received for a non-household member (related or unrelated) • Oil leases/mineral rights • Partnerships/S-Corporations • Any remaining portion of lump sum payment awarded for wrongful death, personal injury, damages, or loss of property not excluded for tax purposes • Trust income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSI benefits • Social security benefits of dependents • TANF (KTAP) benefits • Veteran's disability benefits • Veteran's pension benefits • Veteran's education benefits • Military allowances • Employer reimbursement for mileage, meals, etc. • Earned income tax credits • Worker's compensation • Employer contributions to certain pretax benefits funded by an employee's elective salary reduction, such as amounts for a flexible spending account or contributions to a retirement account • Fringe benefits provided on a pretax basis by an employer • Child support received • Foster care and adoption assistance payments • Education scholarships, awards, fellowship grants • Loans • Federal Work Study income • Wages of minors • Gifts and inheritances • Waiver payments issued to individual care providers received for a household member (related or unrelated) • Black lung benefits • Cash rebates from a dealer or manufacturer • Refugee cash assistance • Native American benefits and payments • Income from a sponsor for a sponsored immigrant

5.3 Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) vs. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a program that provides assistance to people with disabilities and RSDI is a federally funded program managed by the Social Security Administration (SSA). See below for an overview of each benefit program and how it relates to countable and non-countable income.

RSDI	SSI
Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, also known as Social Security , pays benefits to a disabled child or widow or widower of someone who has worked and qualified based on the deceased person’s earnings. These benefits may come from one of three programs: retirement benefits, survivors benefits, and disability benefits. RSDI is countable income for MAGI. For children, RSDI is excluded only if the child is living with their parents. If the child is living with a grandparent, aunt, etc. and non- tax filing rules apply, then RSDI is countable for children.	Supplemental Security Income is for disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources. SSI is not countable income for MAGI. Individuals who receive SSI are automatically eligible for Medicaid

5.4 Presumptive Eligibility (PE)

Presumptive Eligibility (PE) is a program in Kentucky which expedites an Individual’s ability to receive temporary coverage for Medicaid (MA) services. **PE helps Individuals quickly receive temporary (MA) Medicaid services.**

- Eligibility is determined based on a simplified application. This reduces the time for emergency eligibility determinations.
- Prospective Medicaid (MA) beneficiaries may receive immediate, time-limited access to medical services.
- Provides a gateway to full Medicaid (MA) coverage.



5.5 Verification Requirement

For most applications a verification of residency, pregnancy, immigration status, and household composition are required. Self-attestation or client statement as verification are acceptable for residency, pregnancy, household composition, and relationship unless conflicting documentation is received.

5.6 Household Composition

Household Composition is determined based on **Filer or Non-Filer rules**. Each Individual is designated a Filer or a Non-Filer **based on tax filing status**. Once designated either a Filer or Non-Filer, a household size can be constructed for each eligible Individual. An Individual does **NOT** have to be applying for assistance to be included in a household.



5.6.1 Household Composition Scenario

Household composition is important when assisting Individuals and families to ensure they are receiving correct coverage. The scenario below describes a household that Agents and kynectors may see when assisting Kentuckians with applying for health coverage. Pay close attention to the details of the scenarios before moving forward to the scenario's questions.

Resident Information

James and Elizabeth are a married couple enrolled in Medicaid. James will be turning 65 on June 17th and aging out of Medicaid and into Medicare this upcoming year.

- **How many days before his birthday should James report a change to kynect about enrolling into Medicare?**
 - Individuals should report a change 30 days in advance of their 65th birthday in preparation for their transition to Medicare.
- **With James' 65th birthday falling on June 17th, when will his Medicare benefits be effective?**
 - The members Medicaid will discontinue effective June 1st and transition to Medicare. If the Individual is found eligible for other benefits, they may obtain dual eligibility.

Please note: Individuals who do not report a change to transition to Medicare are picked up by the system batch which runs on the second day of each month and picks up any Individual turning 65 that month. When Individuals transition to Medicare their eligibility will be re-determined. It is important to enroll in Medicare in a timely manner. For more information on Medicare please [click here](#).

Resident Information

John, Abigail, and their son Mason all live in a household together. John currently receives employer-sponsored insurance. Abigail and Mason are not offered this insurance and are seeking coverage.

- **Who from the Brady Household should be included on the application?**
 - The entire family since they are all in the same tax household. John will identify that he is not seeking coverage on the household member details screen
- **Who will be listed as the primary subscriber?**
 - Abigail will be listed as the head of household since her husband, John, is already receiving Employer-Sponsored Insurance.

6 Identity Verification Overview

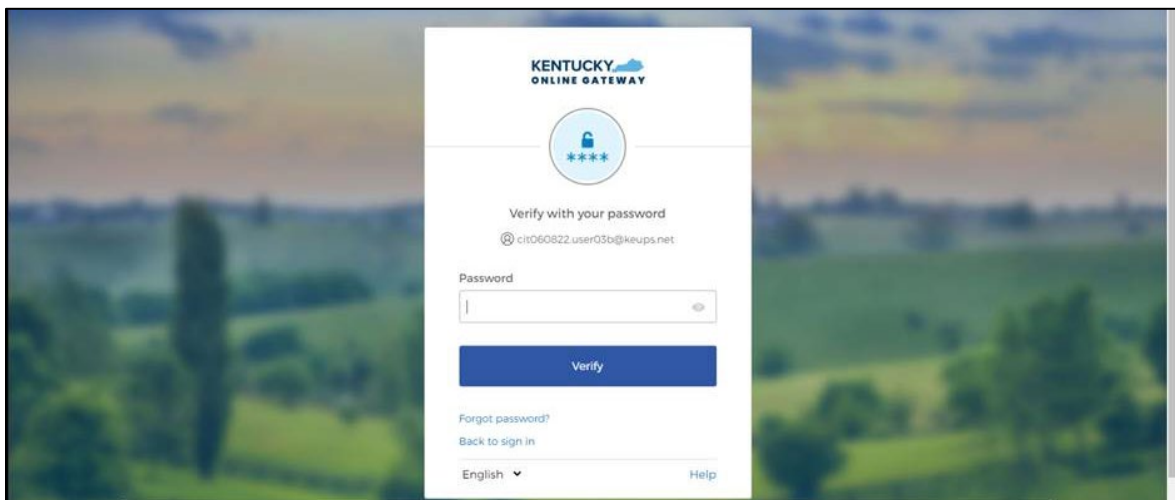
There are two ID verification requirements that Agent and kynectors should be aware of when assisting Residents:

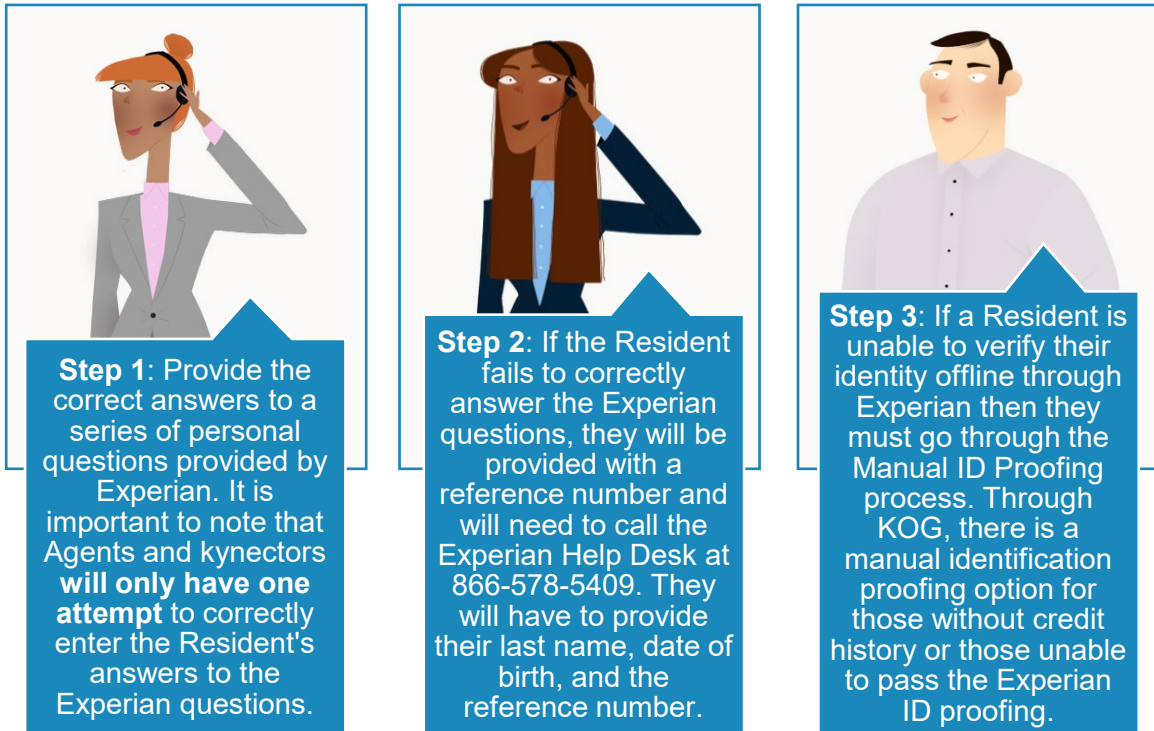
1. **Identity verification through the Kentucky Online Gateway (KOG)**
2. **Identity verification for applications through kynect health coverage**

Identity proofing is a federal requirement and a necessary step included in health coverage enrollment. Determining eligibility involves extremely sensitive information, and KHBE Agents and kynectors must verify the identity of those they are assisting.

6.1 Identity Proofing through Kentucky Online Gateway (KOG)

The Kentucky Online Gateway was created to enable Residents and business partners to easily access multiple state system applications while using a single account. The process below highlights the three steps to verify a Resident's identity through KOG.





6.2 KOG Manual ID Proofing Process

Agents and kynectors can assist with the following Manual ID Proofing process:

1. The Resident can obtain a copy of a photo ID or another acceptable form of ID.
2. The Resident can provide their contact and KOG account information to the kynector or Agent.
3. The kynector, Agent or DCBS Staff can fill out the Manual ID Proofing "Cover Sheet" and send it to DMS.IDProofing@ky.gov with the appropriate documentation attached.

Please note: Use the email address associated with the KOG account when going through the Manual ID Proofing Process. This process can be completed for ID Proofing issues for both KOG accounts and for phone-in applications.



6.3 Identity Attestation through kynect benefits

During the application process Residents apply for benefits through kynect. kynect allows Residents to apply for Medicaid (MA), Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC), Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs), Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP), and Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment (KI-HIPP) Program. The Resident can also use the assistance of a kynector or Agent to submit an application.

The process below highlights the steps for Identity Attestation through kynect.

1. The Resident provides a copy of an acceptable form of ID verification as outlined in kynect benefits (e.g. Driver's License).
2. The kynector or Resident uploads the documentation into kynect benefits via the Document Upload functionality for verification. After the Manual Identity Attestation is complete, Residents may receive Requests for Information (RFI) asking for additional verifications/documentation.



For more information, including examples of appropriate documentation for verification on the Manual Identity Attestation process, please view the [Quick Reference Guide Manual ID Proofing and Next Steps](#).

7 Enrollment Periods

7.1 Open Enrollment (OE) Overview

Agents and kynectors assist Individuals with applying for health coverage during Open Enrollment.

Individuals eligible for Medicaid (MA) can apply and enroll at any time throughout the year. Medicaid enrollees can choose the plan they want or will be automatically enrolled in a plan. There is an initial 90-day period where the Medicaid Member can try the plan and switch to a new plan if desired. After that 90-day period ends, they cannot change their Managed Care Organization (MCO) until the next Medicaid MCO Open Enrollment period, unless they have an event that allows a change.

For Individuals interested in Qualified Health Plans (QHPs), Open Enrollment (OE) is generally November 1st to January 15th of each year. These dates will be announced every year.

Please note: Individuals who are Native American (referred to in federal documents as American Indian) or Alaska Native may enroll in health coverage at any time during the year. They are also permitted to change plans once per month.

Please note: When an individual is disenrolled from QHP and eligible for Medicaid MCO enrollment, the MCO provider associated with the QHP issuer (if available) will be assigned, unless the individual chooses otherwise. The associated issuer will only be applied if there is overlapping/ongoing Medicaid eligibility with their QHP coverage.

7.2 Active vs. Passive Renewals

QHPs are required to be renewed on an annual basis. This process typically takes place around early October. See below for the difference between active or passive renewals.

Passive Renewal	Active Renewal
Passive Renewal is a system process that automatically re-enrolls an eligible household in the same plan for the upcoming coverage year. kynect will attempt to passively renew as many cases as possible as long as the Individual has authorized kynect to use federal and state sources to re-determine eligibility each year. To authorize kynect to automatically verify you select "I Agree" in the Sign and Submit section on the Signature Page (shown below) before completing the application.	If an Individual does not grant authorization or kynect is unable to verify data they must be actively renewed. This requires navigation to their kynect benefits dashboard to renew their case by entering updated information if applicable.

kynect Health Dashboard Programs Sign, Kynecters, & Agents Help & FAQs enrollment English (English)

BENEFITS APPLICATION

[Application Summary](#)

Signature Page

Terms of Agreement Summary

1. I have answered all questions truthfully and to the best of my ability.
2. If any changes occur to my situation, I am responsible for reporting them.
3. Providing false information may result in penalties.
4. Please read and agree to each of the terms. If you do not agree, your application may be affected, and you may be ineligible to receive benefits.

☒ Read and agree to Application Statement of Understanding

☒ Read and agree to Medicaid Penalty Warning

I agree to allow kynect to use my income data, including information from tax returns, for the next 5 years.

☐ I Agree

☐ I Disagree

How long would you like your eligibility for help paying for coverage to be renewed?

Select

If anyone on your application is enrolled in kynect and is later found to have other qualifying health coverage (like Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP), kynect will automatically end their kynect plan and dental coverage. This will help make sure that anyone who's found to have other qualifying coverage won't stay enrolled in kynect Health and dental coverage and have to pay full cost.

☐ I Agree

☐ I Disagree

John D Doe JR – E-Signature
By entering your name below, you are electronically signing this application

☐ Household member does not have a middle initial

Last Name Suffix

Date

Voter Registration

Would you like to register to vote?

7.3 Special Enrollment Period (SEP) Overview

When an Individual experiences a qualifying event, such as losing a job, moving to a county with a new QHP, or getting married, they may be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period. During a SEP, they can enroll in or change both medical and dental plans offered by kynect health coverage. Special Enrollment Periods are generally **60 days following a qualifying event**.

7.4 Types of Special Enrollment Periods

There are five types of special enrollment periods listed and explained below.

Loss of Qualifying Health Coverage

Individuals may qualify for an SEP if they (or anyone in their household who is seeking coverage) lose qualifying health coverage, also known as Minimum Essential Coverage. Some examples of qualifying health coverage include:

- Coverage through a job, or through another person's job
- Medicaid or Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program coverage
- Some student health plans (check with the school to see if the plan counts as qualifying health coverage)
- Individual or group health plan coverage that ends during the year
- Dependent coverage through a parent's plan
- Expiration of Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) coverage
- Loss of employer contribution to COBRA coverage
- Loss of government contribution (via subsidies) to COBRA coverage

Change in Household Size

An Individual may qualify for an SEP if they (or anyone in their household):

- Gets married
- Have a baby, adopts a child, or receives a foster child for placement
- Gains or becomes a dependent due to a child support or other court order
- Gets Divorced, legally separated, or has a death in the family that resulted in the loss of health coverage

Change in Primary Place of Living

An Individual may qualify for an SEP if they (or anyone in the household) gained access to new kynect health coverage plans because of a change in their place of living. The SEP is only valid if they had qualifying coverage, unless they:

- Live in a foreign country or in a U.S. territory for at least one of the 60 days preceding the date of the move, or
- Live for one or more days preceding the qualifying event or most recent enrollment period in a service area where no qualified health plan was available through kynect health coverage.

Examples of qualifying changes in primary place of living:

- Move to a new home in a new zip code or county where new QHPs are available
- Move to the U.S. from a foreign country or United States territory
- A student moves to or from the place they attended school
- A seasonal worker moves to or from the place they live and work
- Move to or from a shelter or other transitional housing

Please note: Moving only for medical treatment or staying somewhere for vacation does not qualify Individuals for a SEP.

Newly Eligible or Ineligible for Payment Assistance

An Individual may qualify for a SEP if they (or anyone in his or her household):

- Reports a change on their kynect health coverage that makes the Individual:
 - Newly eligible for help paying for coverage
 - Newly ineligible for help paying for coverage
 - Experience a change in Cost-Sharing Reduction category
- Newly eligible for kynect health coverage after release from incarceration

More Qualifying Changes

Exceptional Special Enrollment is reserved for circumstances where Individuals experienced circumstances other than a traditional qualifying life event that prevented them from enrolling in coverage during an enrollment period. Individuals must select a new plan within 60 days of the date they knew or should have reasonably known of the triggering event. These include circumstances such as:

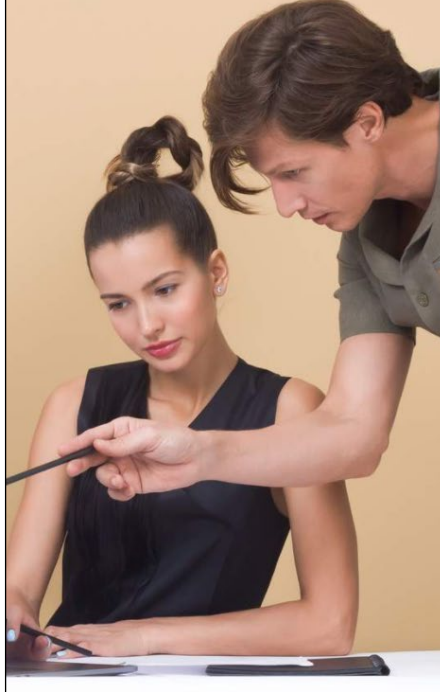
- Individuals who applied for Medicaid/Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) during an Open Enrollment Period (OEP), or due to a qualifying event, and the state agency later determined, outside of the OEP or more than 60 days after the SEP qualifying event, that the Individual was not eligible.
- Individuals who are a victim of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment and want to enroll in a health plan separate from their abuser or abandoner; dependents on the same application may enroll in coverage at the same time as the victim.
- Individuals who are an AmeriCorps service member starting or ending AmeriCorps service.
- Individuals who submitted documents and cleared their Request for Information (RFI) after kynect took action and their health coverage was ended.
- Individuals who can show they experienced an exceptional circumstance that kept them from enrolling in health coverage during an enrollment period, such as being incapacitated, or a victim of a natural disaster or experienced domestic abuse/violence or spousal abandonment.
- Individuals who did not receive timely notice and were reasonably unaware of a triggering event. They must select a new plan within 60 days of the date they knew or should have reasonably known of the triggering event.
- Individuals with Household Income up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible for an SEP on a monthly basis.
- Individuals who were not enrolled in a plan or were enrolled in the wrong plan because of:
 - Misinformation, misrepresentation, misconduct, or inaction of someone working in an official capacity to help the Individual enroll
 - A technical error or another kynect related enrollment delay
 - Wrong plan data, such as benefit or cost-sharing information, was displayed in the plan compare feature of kynect.ky.gov at the time of plan selection
- Individuals who can demonstrate that their kynect plan has violated a material provision of its contract.
- Other SEP reasons may be added to comply with new Federal guidance.

Requests for Exceptional Special Enrollment can be sent by email to kynectESE@ky.gov.

Please note: Individuals who are eligible for a Special Enrollment and want to request a change from their current plan may be restricted to certain metal levels.

Verification Process for Special Enrollment Periods

KHBE conducts pre-enrollment verification of newly enrolling Individuals' SEP eligibility. SEP verification does not impact the Individual's Exchange-generated effective date, which is typically determined by the SEP qualifying event and the date the Individual selects a QHP. However, as with other retroactive effective dates, if an Individual only pays a premium for one month of coverage, only prospective coverage should be effectuated, in accordance with regular effective dates. Individuals subject to SEP verification have their enrollment "pending" until kynect health coverage completes verification of SEP eligibility either through automated electronic means or based on documentation that the Individual submits.



If kynect health coverage cannot automatically verify an Individual's SEP eligibility, then the Individual must submit documentation within **30 calendar days** of plan selection to verify eligibility. Once an Individual's SEP eligibility has been verified, kynect health coverage then releases its enrollment information to the relevant Issuer. SEP verification currently applies to the following SEP types: loss of qualifying coverage, marriage, a permanent move, or gaining/becoming a dependent through foster care placement, adoption, or other court order.

7.5 Exceptional Special Enrollment Period

KHBE grants most Special Enrollment Periods through application questions or internal logic on the application. However, there are certain Exceptional Special Enrollments (ESE) that eligible Residents must request in writing to KHBE. These include:

- Error by kynect health coverage or misrepresentation in enrollment process
- Experience a plan or contract violation
- Material error related to plan benefits, service area, or premium
- Victim of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment



Residents may be required to submit additional documents when enrolling in plans during a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). For more information on Special Enrollment, coverage effective dates and required documentation, please view the document below titled Special Enrollment.



Special
Enrollment.pdf

7.6 Residents Seeking ESE

Residents seeking an ESE must submit a request in writing or call the Contact Center for information on how to request an ESE. Contact Center representatives are not able to determine whether a Resident is eligible for an ESE and are to forward cases to KHBE staff. A special ESE committee reviews these requests and submits recommendations to the KHBE Director who ultimately makes the final decision. If the ESE is granted and a new enrollment is processed, the record is sent to the Issuer with the coverage effective date. The Resident seeking ESE will be notified in writing of the decision.



8 Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) Overview

Agents and kynectors may need to assist Individuals with navigating health coverage options such as Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs). An HRA is a group health plan funded solely by employer contributions that reimburses an employee's medical expenses up to a maximum dollar amount for a coverage period.

- HRA reimbursements are excluded from the employee's income and wages for federal income tax and employment tax purposes.
- An employer may allow funds that remain in the HRA at the end of the year to carry over into future years.
- In addition to the employee, an HRA may also reimburse expenses incurred by the employee's spouse, dependents, and children who, as of the end of the taxable year, have not attained age 27 (dependents).

8.1 Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA)

Individual Coverage Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) is a type of Health Reimbursement Arrangement that reimburses medical expenses, like monthly premiums. ICHRA requires eligible employees and dependents to have individual health insurance coverage or Medicare Parts A (Hospital Insurance) and B (Medical Insurance) or Part C (Medicare Advantage) for each month they are covered by the Individual Coverage HRA (ICHRA).



8.2 Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangement (QSEHRA)

Small employers who don't offer group health coverage to their employees can help employees pay for medical expenses through a Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangement (QSEHRA).

- An eligible employee can use a QSEHRA to reimburse medical care expenses for themselves, as well as any covered dependents if permitted by the employer.
- To use a QSEHRA or receive reimbursements from a QSEHRA, an employee and any covered dependents must be enrolled in Minimum Essential Coverage (MEC).



8.3 ICHRA VS QSEHRAS

An Individual Coverage HRA (ICHRA)	Qualified Small Employer HRA (QSEHRA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals must be enrolled in a health plan through kynect health coverage to use the Advance Premium Tax Credit to help pay for a health coverage premium. Individuals cannot use both APTC and the HRA. If Individuals accept their HRA and use APTC, they may owe money when they file their taxes next year. Once the Individual has been confirmed eligible for APTC AND enrolled in kynect health coverage, they tell their employer they are declining (or “opting out” of) the HRA. If the ICHRA is not affordable based on standards set forth by the IRS, an APTC is allowed if the employee offered the coverage “opts out” of the HRA and the other APTC requirements are met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals can use a combination of the APTC and HRA amount, if the QSEHRA is considered unaffordable. Individuals should lower the amount of APTC they will apply to their monthly premiums by their monthly QSEHRA amount. When kynect health coverage asks how much of the APTC is wanted in advance, subtract the monthly QSEHRA amount from the monthly APTC for which the Individual would otherwise be eligible.

The screenshot shows the 'kynect benefits' dashboard with a blue header. The main content area is titled 'BENEFITS APPLICATION' and 'Application Summary'. The current step is 'Employer's Health Reimbursement Arrangement Selection'. Below this, there are two questions with 'Yes' and 'No' buttons:

Does anyone in the household currently enrolled in an Individual Coverage HRA (ICHRA) or Qualified Small Employer HRA (QSEHRA)? ⓘ

Yes No

Does anyone in the household has offer in an Individual Coverage HRA (ICHRA) or Qualified Small Employer HRA (QSEHRA), and not yet enrolled? ⓘ

Yes No

At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Back' (blue), 'Save & Exit' (blue), and 'Next' (purple).

8.4 Enrolling through an ICHRA/QSEHRA Special Enrollment Period



8.5 How HRAs Affect Special Enrollment Periods

Individuals and their dependents who newly gain access to an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement or who are newly provided a Qualified Small Employer HRA may qualify for a SEP to enroll in individual health coverage through or outside of kynect health coverage.

The triggering event is the first day on which coverage for the qualified Individual, Enrollee, or dependent under the ICHRA can take effect, or the first day on which coverage under the QSEHRA takes effect.

8.6 HRA Impacts to APTC Eligibility

- An Advance Premium Tax Credit is not allowed for an Individual's health coverage if they are offered an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement that is affordable. This applies to employees as well as spouses and dependents of employees to whom the offer extends.
- If the ICHRA is not affordable based on standards set forth by the IRS, an APTC is allowed if the employee offered the coverage "opts out" of the Health Reimbursement Arrangement and the other APTC requirements are met.
- APTC is not allowed for an Individual's health coverage if they choose to be covered by an ICHRA, regardless of whether the HRA is affordable.



9 Member Match

During an application, a central database performs member match for all members added in the application once their basic demographic information is saved. This information consists of First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Gender and SSN. Based on the match status of the Head of Household and added members of the application, the Agent or kynector may complete the application or is blocked until the member match is resolved. The sections below describe the behaviors for the three different match scenarios: Full, Partial, and No Match.

Full Member Match

All identifying information perfectly matches an Individual on an existing case and the application is automatically absorbed into that existing case. If a full match is experienced, Agents and kynectors may continue with the application

Partial Member Match

A partial match is made when not all the identifying information exactly matches to an individual in an existing case, but kynect recognizes the Individual may already exist. DCBS Caseworkers must determine if the Individual exists in kynect or not. Submitting the application creates a task for a DCBS Caseworker to verify the members on the application and resolve the partial match. The Individual is notified that their eligibility results will be available once the DCBS Caseworker has reviewed the application in the Eligibility Results page. The application is removed from the Agent or kynector's dashboard.

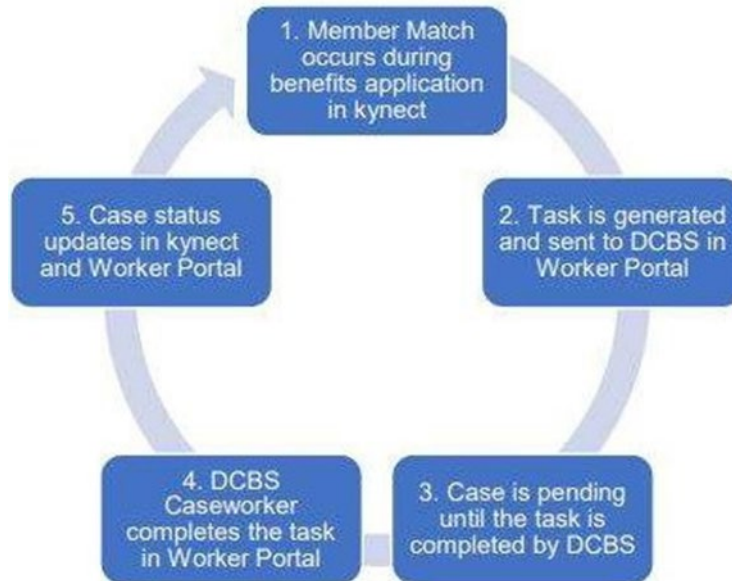
No Member Match

There is no potential that the Individual already exists in kynect and the Agent or kynector is able to complete the application from start to finish.

Please note: Ensure you enter the member's full name as found on the Social Security Card to minimize triggering a partial match.

9.1 Member Match Process and Lifecycle

The member match process and lifecycle begins with member match during the benefits application and continues through the cycle illustrated below.






If you are unable to find the application/case number after three days, call the Professional Services Line (PSL) at 1-855-326-4650, to verify association to the case. The Agent may have to be associated with the new case using current agent association [procedures](#).

Agents or kynectors who need additional assistance or have questions about member matches can also call the Professional Services Line (PSL). For applications needing attention within 24 hours (also referred to as “Dire Need” cases), Agents and kynectors may email kynectdireneed@ky.gov mailbox.

10 Repot Fraud, Waste, or Abuse

10.1 Public Assistance Fraud is a Crime

Because public assistance fraud is a crime, substantiated investigations are referred for criminal prosecution or administrative sanctions. Every kynector and Agent for the Commonwealth of Kentucky should feel comfortable to report any activity that meets the criteria of fraud, waste, and abuse.

<p>Fraud is defined as the wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. Fraud includes false representation of fact, making false statements, or by concealment of information.</p>	
<p>Waste is defined as the thoughtless or careless expenditure, mismanagement, or abuse of resources. Waste also includes incurring unnecessary costs resulting from inefficient or ineffective practices, systems, or controls.</p>	
<p>Abuse is defined as excessive or improper use of a thing, or to use something in a manner contrary to the natural or legal rules for its use. Abuse can occur in financial or non-financial settings.</p>	

Please report any suspected fraud, waste, or abuse to the Office of Inspector General Fraud Hotline (800) 372-2970. You may also report suspected public assistance fraud by email (chfs.fraud@ky.gov) or by sending your complaint by mail to the following address:

Office of Inspector General
 Division of Audits and Investigators
 275 E. Main St, 5E-D
 Frankfort, KY 40621

11 Assessment

1. Individuals applying for kynect health coverage must:
 - a. Live in Indiana
 - b. Have a Facebook account
 - c. Have a driver's license
 - d. Be Residents of Kentucky; be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or lawfully present immigrants for the entire time they plan to have coverage; and not be incarcerated (unless pending disposition of charges)
2. Eligible Residents can enroll in, or change kynect health coverage plans during the annual _____ or during a _____.
 - a. Open Enrollment Period (OEP), Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
 - b. Open Season, Open House
 - c. Open Sign Up, Special Circumstance
 - d. None of the above
3. A Qualified Health Plan (QHP) is a _____ offered through kynect. These plans are offered to Residents at full premium cost or with Payment Assistance for qualified Residents.
 - a. Debit card
 - b. Savings account
 - c. Health coverage plan
 - d. Medicare plan
4. Residents receiving _____ are not eligible to purchase a new Qualified Health Plan (QHP) or receive an Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC).
 - a. Medicare
 - b. Amazon Prime packages
 - c. Fast food coupons
 - d. Discounts
5. A Resident who intends to file an income tax return for the current benefit year and cannot be claimed as a dependent by another Resident is known as what?
 - a. Tax Filer
 - b. Tax Dependent
 - c. Family Member
 - d. Liability
6. Does an Individual have to apply for assistance to be included in a household?
 - a. An Individual does **NOT** have to be applying for assistance to be included in a household.
 - b. Yes

7. The amount of Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) the Resident is qualified for is based on:
 - a. Job status
 - b. The annual income compared to the FPL – the lower the income compared to the FPL, the higher the subsidy
 - c. How far away the Resident lives
 - d. Education
8. All of the following are countable forms of income for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) when determining income eligibility for Medicaid EXCEPT:
 - a. Wages from employer
 - b. Farm Income
 - c. Pensions and annuities
 - d. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
9. Reasonable compatibility is defined as no more than what percentage difference between the self-attested amount and the information returned by state and federal data sources.
 - a. 5%
 - b. 25%
 - c. 33%
 - d. 18%
10. Agents and kynectors assist Residents with Identity Proofing through which two platforms?
 - a. Facebook and Twitter
 - b. Kentucky Online Gateway (KOG) and kynect benefits
 - c. Medicare and health insurance
 - d. 911 and Life Alert
11. Identity proofing is a federal requirement and a necessary step included in facilitating_____.
 - a. Child care assistance
 - b. Enrollment
 - c. A safe environment
 - d. Medical assistance
12. Residents are eligible for Special Enrollment Periods (SEPs) when they experience a qualifying event, such as:
 - a. Medicare
 - b. High blood pressure
 - c. Losing a job, moving to another state, or getting married, they are eligible to enroll or change their existing health insurance enrollment
 - d. Birthdays

13. Residents may be required to submit additional documents when enrolling in plans during a _____.
 - a. Tornado
 - b. Pandemic
 - c. Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
 - d. Busy season
14. Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) are a:
 - a. Gym membership
 - b. Hospital
 - c. A group health plan funded solely by employer contributions that reimburses an employee's medical care expenses
 - d. Savings account
15. The 21st Century Cares Act permits small employers who don't offer group health plan coverage to any of their employees to provide a Qualified Small Employer HRA (QSEHRA) to their eligible employees to help employees pay for _____.
 - a. Medical care expenses
 - b. Their spouse's medical expenses
 - c. Retirement
 - d. Child care assistance
16. As a best practice, a Resident's full name should be entered when completing an application as it appears on what personal identification document?
 - a. Marriage License
 - b. Pay Stub
 - c. Social Security Card
 - d. Credit Card
17. Suspected actions of fraud, waste, or abuse should be reported to which state agency?
 - a. Better Business Bureau
 - b. Social Security Office
 - c. Environmental Protection Agency
 - d. Office of Inspector General