Benefits Guide

2026

January 1 - December 31, 2026

LANCASTER
NEBRASKA
COUNTY

WELCOME

We are pleased to offer a comprehensive array of valuable benefits to protect your health, family and way of life. This guide answers some of the basic questions you may have about your benefits. Please read it carefully, along with any supplemental materials you receive.

Eligibility

You are eligible for benefits if you work 30 or more hours per week. You may also enroll your eligible family members under certain plans you choose for yourself.
Eligible family members include:

- Your legally married spouse
- Your biological children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children or children for whom you have legal custody (age restrictions may apply). Disabled children age 26 or older who meet certain criteria may continue on your health coverage.

Coverage Begins

- **New Hires:** You must complete enrollment within 30 days of your date of hire. If you enroll on time, coverage is effective on the first of the month following date of hire. If you fail to enroll on time, you will NOT have benefits coverage (except for company- paid benefits) until you enroll during our next annual Open Enrollment period.

Choose Carefully

Due to IRS regulations, you cannot change your elections until the next annual Open Enrollment period, unless you have a qualifying life event during the year. Following are examples of the most common qualifying life events:

- Marriage or divorce
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Child reaching the maximum age limit
- Death of a spouse or child
- Lost coverage under your spouse's plan
- You gain access to state coverage under Medicaid or The Children's Health Insurance Program

Making Changes

To change your benefit elections, you must contact Human Resources within 30 days of the qualifying life event. Be prepared to show documentation of the event, such as a marriage license, birth certificate or a divorce decree. If changes are not submitted on time, you must wait until the next Open Enrollment period to change your elections.

INSIDE

ENROLLMENT

Changes must be made through Oracle. There, you will find instructions on how to enroll.

If you have additional questions, you may also contact **HR Benefits**

Phone
(402) 441-7597 Option 2

Email
HRBenefits@lincoln.ne.gov

Website
https://intranet.lincoln.ne.gov/City/HR

Required Information—You will be required to enter a Social Security number (SSN) for all covered dependents when you enroll. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires the company to report this information to the IRS each year to show that you and your dependents have coverage. This information will be securely submitted to the IRS and will remain confidential.

HEALTH

MEDICAL COVERAGE

PPO

The Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, provided through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, gives you the freedom to seek care from any provider of your choice. However, you will maximize your benefits and lower your out-of-pocket costs if you choose a provider who participates in the network.

A PPO plan relies on a network of health care clinics, hospitals and professionals who have agreed to provide their services at discounted rates. These preferred providers are considered "in-network." In general, you will pay less for in-network services than you would were you to seek care outside the network.

How You Pay for Services

- You pay a flat dollar amount–or copay–for covered health care treatments and services, such as doctor's office visits and prescription drugs.
- Once you satisfy your annual deductible, you will pay a percentage–or coinsurance–of the cost of the visit, and the plan will cover the rest.
- Once you hit your annual out-of-pocket maximum, the plan will cover 100% of the cost of covered services for the rest of the year.

See pages 24-28 for Benefit Terminology.

Scan this code to watch a video about comparing medical plan types.

MEDICAL COVERAGE

Following is a high-level overview of your medical plan options. For complete coverage details, please refer to the Summary Plan Description (SPD). **Note:** The deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums are per calendar year.

Key Benefits	BCBSNE $600 PPO – AGCEJMY		BCBSNE $600 PPO – D	
	In-Network	Out-of- Network1	In-Network	Out-of- Network1
Deductible (Individual/Family)	$600 / $1,200	$1,200 / $2,400	$600 / $1,200	$1,200 / $2,400
Out-of-Pocket Max (Individual/Family)	$2,600 / $5,200	$4,400 / $8,800	$1,800 / $3,600	$3,200 / $6,400
Office Visits (physician/specialist)	$20 copay	40%*	$20 copay	40%*
Virtual Visits	$20 copay	Not covered	$20 copay	Not covered
Routine Preventive Care	No charge	40%*	No charge	40%*
Outpatient Diagnostics (lab/X-ray)	No charge	40%*	No charge	40%*
Complex Imaging	No charge	40%*	No charge	40%*
Chiropractic	$20 copay	40%*	$20 copay	40%*
Ambulance	20%*		20%*	
Emergency Room	$150 copay + 20%*		$150 copay + 20%*	
Urgent Care Facility	$40 copay	40%*	$40 copay	40%*
Inpatient Hospital Stay	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*
Outpatient Surgery	20%*	40%*	20%*	40%*

Coinsurance percentages and copay amounts shown in the above chart represent what the member is responsible for paying.

*Benefits with an asterisk (*) require that the deductible be met before the Plan begins to pay.

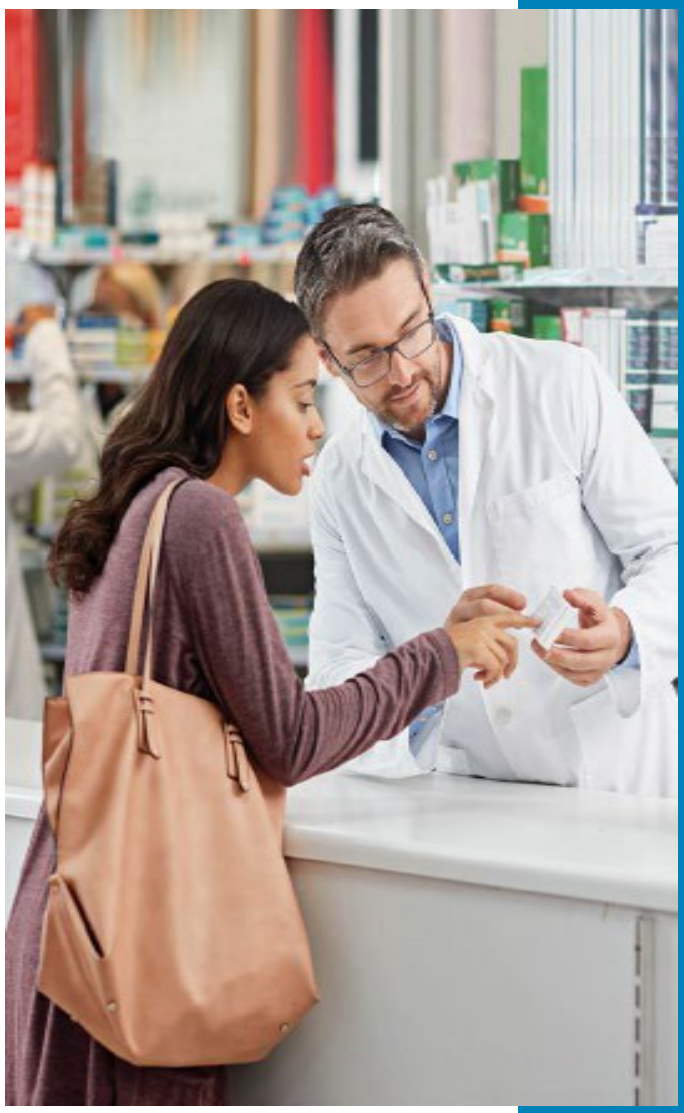
1. If you use an out-of-network provider, you will be responsible for any charges above the maximum allowed amount.

PHARMACY COVERAGE

Your prescription drug coverage is provided through **CVS/Caremark**, giving you convenient access to a broad network of retail pharmacies and mail order options. While you can fill prescriptions at many different pharmacies, you'll save the most money when you use in-network pharmacies, where discounted rates have already been negotiated.

In-network pharmacies include thousands of locations nationwide. The plan also offers options for 90-day maintenance prescriptions through retail or mail order for even more convenience.

See pages 20-24 for Benefit Terminology



Scan this code to watch a video about comparing medical plan types.

PHARMACY COVERAGE

Your prescription benefits are designed to give you affordable access to the medications you need, whether it's a short-term antibiotic or a long-term maintenance drug. The chart below highlights your cost-sharing responsibilities, including copays and coinsurance, so you can quickly see what you'll pay for different types of prescriptions.

Key Benefits	BCBSNE $600 PPO – AGCEJMY		BCBSNE $600 PPO – D	
	In-Network	Out-of-Network[1]	In-Network	Out-of-Network[1]
Pharmacy Out-of-Pocket Max (Individual/Family)	$3,000 / $6,000		$3,000 / $6,000	
Retail Pharmacy (30-day supply) Generic Preferred Brand Name Non-Preferred Brand Name	25% ($5 minimum / $25 maximum) 25% ($25 minimum / $50 maximum) 50% ($50 minimum / $75 maximum)	25% ($5 minimum / $25 maximum) 25% ($25 minimum / $50 maximum) 50% ($50 minimum / $75 maximum)	25% ($5 minimum, $25 maximum) 25% ($25 minimum, $50 maximum) 50% ($50 minimum / $75 maximum)	25% ($5 minimum, $25 maximum) 25% ($25 minimum, $50 maximum) 50% ($50 minimum / $75 maximum)
Mail Order (90-day supply) Generic Preferred Brand Name Non-Preferred Brand Name	25% ($10 minimum / $50 maximum) 25% ($50 minimum / $100 maximum) 50% ($100 minimum / $150 maximum)	N/A	25% ($10 minimum / $50 maximum) 25% ($50 minimum / $100 maximum) 50% ($100 minimum / $150 maximum)	N/A

Coinsurance percentages and copay amounts shown in the above chart represent what the member is responsible for paying.
*Benefits with an asterisk (*) require that the deductible be met before the Plan begins to pay.
1. If you use an out-of-network provider, you will be responsible for any charges above the maximum allowed amount.

DENTAL COVERAGE

Dental Coverage

The dental Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, provided through Ameritas, offers you the freedom and flexibility to use the dentist of your choice. However, you will maximize your benefits and lower your out-of-pocket costs if you choose a dentist who participates in the Ameritas network.

Following is a high-level overview of your dental plan options. For complete coverage details, please refer to the Summary Plan Description (SPD). **Note:** The deductibles and annual benefit maximums are per calendar year.

Key Dental Benefits	Ameritas DPPO	
	In-Network	Out-of-Network[1]
Deductible (Individual/Family)	$25 / $50	$50 / $100
Annual Benefit Maximum (preventive, basic and major services combined)	$1,500	$1,500
Preventive Services	No charge	No charge
Basic Services	20%*	20%*
Major Services	20%*	50%*
Orthodontic Services (Child & Adult)	50%*, up to $1,500 Lifetime Maximum	50%*, up to $1,500 Lifetime Maximum

Coinsurance percentages and copay amounts shown in the above chart represent what the member is responsible for paying.
*Benefits with an asterisk (*) require that the deductible be met before the Plan begins to pay.

1. If you use an out-of-network provider, you will be responsible for any charges above the maximum allowed amount.

VISION COVERAGE

Vision Plan

Your eyesight is an integral part of your overall health and a key component of safety. This plan, provided through EyeMed administered by Ameritas, gives you the freedom to seek care from the provider of your choice. However, you will maximize your benefits and lower your out-of-pocket costs if you choose a provider who participates in the Ameritas (EyeMed) network. If you decide to use an out-of-network provider, you will pay the provider in full at the time of your appointment and submit a claim form for reimbursement up to the amount allowed by the plan.

Receiving benefits from a network provider is as easy as making an appointment with the provider of your choice from the list of providers. The provider will coordinate all necessary authorizations you supply in your membership information.

Special discounts are offered on non-covered services, such as an additional pair of glasses, special lens options and LASIK.

Following is a high-level overview of your vision plan options. For complete coverage details, please refer to the Summary Plan Description (SPD).

Key Vision Benefits	Ameritas (EyeMed)	
	In-Network	Out-of-Network Reimbursement
Exam (once every 12 months)	$10 copay	Up to $35
Frames (once every 12 months)	$100 allowance plus 20% off the balance	Up to $45
Lenses (once every 12 months)		
Single Vision	$0 copay, then covered in full	Up to $25
Bifocal		Up to $40
Trifocal		Up to $55
Contact Lenses (in lieu of spectacle lenses and frames; once every 12 months)	Elective: $0 copay, $115 allowance, 15% off the balance Medically Necessary: Paid in full	Elective: Up to $100 Medically Necessary; Up to $200
Contact Lenses Fit & Follow-up	Standard-Reimbursed: up to $55 Premium: 10% off retail price	N/A

WEALTH

FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS (FSAs)

The flexible spending accounts (FSAs), provided through Omnify, are tax-advantaged accounts that can help you cover certain qualified out-of-pocket expenses. Each account works in much the same way but has different eligibility requirements, list of qualified expenses and contribution limits. You may choose to enroll in the following accounts.

	Health Care FSA (HCFSA)	Dependent Care FSA (DCFSA)
Eligibility Requirements	You must be benefits eligible; enrollment in an HCFSA disqualifies you from making or receiving HSA contributions	Available to all employees
Examples of Qualified Expenses	• Coinsurance • Copayments • Deductibles • Dental treatment • Eye exams/eyeglasses • LASIK eye surgery • Orthodontia • Prescriptions	• Care of a dependent child under the age of 13 by babysitters, nursery schools, pre-school or daycare centers • Care of household members who are physically or mentally incapable of caring for themselves and who qualify as your federal tax dependent
Annual Contribution Limit	$3,400*	$7,500 per family (or $3,750 each if you are married and file separate tax returns)

*Unless otherwise adjusted by the IRS. If you elect the above maximum and the IRS subsequently makes an adjustment, you will be deemed to have elected the adjusted maximums per IRS guidelines.

Important FSA Rules

Because FSAs can give you a significant tax advantage, they must be administered according to specific IRS rules:

- **You must enroll each year to participate.**
- Unused funds will **NOT** be returned to you or carried over to the following year.
- You can incur expenses for your 2026 FSA through March 15, 2027, and must file claims by March 31, 2027.
- **DCFSA:** Unused funds will NOT be returned to you or carried over to the following year.

Scan this code to watch a video about how an FSA works.

LIFE INSURANCE

Life insurance, provided through Mutual of Omaha, provides your named beneficiaries with a benefit following your death, while accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance provides a benefit to you following a covered accident that leads to dismemberment (such as the loss of a hand, foot or eye). Should your death occur due to a covered accident, both the life benefit and the AD&D benefit would be payable.

Basic Life and AD&D (employer-paid)

Coverage Tier	Benefit Amount
Employee	Class 1: Deputy Sheriffs and Captains: $60,000
	Class 2: Unrepresented, MSS, Excluded: $50,000
	Class 3: Corrections: $40,000
	Class 4: IBEW, Juvenile Detention: $30,000

IMPUTED INCOME

Imputed income is the value of non-monetary compensation or benefits provided to you by the company, such as health insurance premiums and life insurance coverage. Even though these benefits are not received in cash form, they are considered part of your overall compensation package and are subject to taxation.

Under federal tax law, if the total coverage of your company-paid basic life insurance is more than $50,000, the premium paid for the coverage above $50,000 is considered imputed income and will be added to your W-2 earnings. You must pay federal, state and Social Security taxes on this amount.

Supplemental Life and AD&D (employee-paid)

If you determine you need more than the basic coverage, you may purchase additional insurance for yourself and your eligible family members with evidence of insurability (EOI).

Coverage Tier	Benefit Amount
Employee	$10,000 increments; maximum of the Lesser of 5x annual earnings or $500,000
Spouse	$5,000 increments; maximum of the Lesser of 50% of Employee's Benefit or $100,000
Child(ren)	Live Birth to Age 26: $10,000

Note: Employee participation is required to enroll in spouse and/or child(ren) coverage. Please note that increase in coverage amounts require EOI and will only go into effect once the insurance carrier approves them.

Scan this code to watch a video about how life insurance works.

VOLUNTARY BENEFITS

As an employee of the Lancaster County, you have the opportunity to enroll in three valuable benefit options through Allstate Benefits: **Accident, Critical Illness, and Short-Term Disability.**

Accident
(employee-paid)

Accident insurance, provided through Allstate Benefits, can soften the financial impact of an accidental injury by paying a benefit to you to help cover the unexpected out-of-pocket costs related to treating your injuries. Some accidents, like breaking your leg, may seem straightforward: you visit the doctor; take an x-ray, put on a cast and rest up until you're healed. But treating a broken leg can cost thousands of dollars. When your medical bill arrives, you'll be relieved you have accident insurance on your side.

Accident Insurance in Practice	
Situation	Abed broke his leg in a bike accident.
Covered Benefits	• Doctor's office visits • Diagnostic exams • Broken leg rehab treatment • Physical therapy sessions
Total Benefit Paid Directly to Employee	$4,250

Note: This is an example claim.

Accident insurance pays a fixed cash benefit directly to you when you have a covered accident-related injury, like a sprain or bone fracture. Examples of covered expenses include: Doctor's office visits, diagnostic exams, broken leg rehab treatment, physical therapy sessions, accident insurance, etc.

Critical Illness
(employee-paid)

About half of U.S. adults report being unable to pay an unexpected medical bill of $500 without going into debt. With critical illness insurance provided through Allstate Benefits, you won't have to. This benefit provides a fixed, lump-sum cash benefit directly to you when you are diagnosed with a covered health condition such as a heart attack or stroke. You can use this benefit however you like, including to help pay for: Increased living expenses, prescriptions, travel expenses, treatments, etc.

Critical Illness Insurance in Practice	
Situation	Britta had a heart attack while raking leaves.
Covered Benefits	Heart attack diagnosis
Total Benefit Paid Directly to Employee	$15,000

Note: This is an example claim.

Short-term Disability
(employee-paid)

Disability insurance, provided through Allstate Benefits, provides benefits that replace part of your lost income when you cannot work due to a covered illness or injury.

WELLBEING

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

Life is full of challenges and sometimes balancing them all can be difficult. We are proud to provide a confidential program dedicated to supporting the emotional health and well-being of our employees and their families. The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is provided at NO COST to you through Continuum EAP.

The EAP can help with the following issues, among many others:

- Mental health
- Relationships
- Substance use
- Child and eldercare
- Grief and loss
- Legal or financial issues

EAP Benefits

- Assistance for you and your household members
- Up to 5 in-person or virtual sessions with a counselor per event, per year, per individual
- Unlimited toll-free phone access and online resources

QUESTIONS?

To learn more, visit 4continuum.com.

For questions, contact Continuum EAP at (402) 476-0186 / (800) 755-7636.

Scan this code to watch a video about how an EAP works.

RESOURCES

PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions toward the cost of benefits are automatically deducted from your paycheck. The amount will depend on the plan you select and if you choose to cover eligible family members.

Medical

Coverage	Per Paycheck Employee Contribution (24 Deductions per Year)		
	C, E, MSS, IBEW Deputy Sheriff Captains	Correctional Officers	Juvenile Detention Officers, Deputy Sheriffs
Employee Only	$20.33	$28.46	$21.65
Employee + Spouse	$140.25	$187.01	$149.40
Employee + Child(ren)	$109.76	$146.36	$116.93
Family	$182.92	$243.89	$194.86

Dental

Coverage	Per Paycheck Employee Contribution (24 Deductions per Year)			
	Deputy Sheriff Captains, Deputy Sheriff	Correctional Officers	C, E, MSS, Juvenile Detention Officers	IBEW
Employee Only	$0.00	$1.52	$4.23	$2.54
Employee + Spouse	$7.78	$12.64	$9.72	$9.72
Employee + Child(ren)	$6.09	$9.89	$7.61	$7.61
Family	$11.88	$19.31	$14.85	$14.85

Vision

Coverage	Per Paycheck Employee Contribution (24 Deductions per Year)			
	Deputy Sheriff Captains, Deputy Sheriffs	Correctional Officers, Juvenile Detention Officers	IBEW	C, E, MSS
Employee Only	$4.58	$4.58	$4.58	$4.58
Employee + Spouse	$8.70	$8.70	$8.70	$8.70
Employee + Child(ren)	$9.16	$9.16	$9.16	$9.16
Family	$13.64	$13.64	$13.64	$13.64

PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions toward the cost of voluntary benefits are automatically deducted from your paycheck after taxes. The amounts will depend upon the plan you select, your age (in some cases) and if you choose to cover eligible family members.

Supplemental Life/AD&D

Employee/Spouse* Age Range**	Employee Contribution Per 24 Pay Periods Vol. Life and AD&D Premium Rates per $1,000
Under 30	$0.052
30 – 34	$0.056
35 – 39	$0.070
40 – 44	$0.092
45 – 49	$0.137
50 – 54	$0.218
55 – 59	$0.326
60 – 64	$0.484
65 – 69	$0.871
70 – 74	$1.505
75+	$2.473
Child life ($10,000 Benefit)	$0.05 Flat Rate

*Spouse benefits/rates are based on Spouse's age.
**Age band adjustments occur on policy renewal

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Benefit	Carrier	Phone Number	Website/Email
Medical	BCBSNE	See number on the back of ID Card	www.nebraskablue.com/welcome
Pharmacy	CVS Caremark	(833) 269-9412	www.caremark.com
Dental	Ameritas	(800) 487-5553	https://dentalnetwork.ameritas.com
Vision	Ameritas (EyeMed)	(866) 289-0614	www.ameritas.com www.eyemedvisioncare.com
Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs)	Omnify	(402) 323-1815 (844) 472-6567	www.omnifybenefits.com support@omnifybenefits.com
Life/AD&D	Mutual of Omaha	(800) 369-3809	www.mutualofomaha.com
Employee Assistance Program (EAP)	Continuum EAP	(402) 476-0186 (800) 755-7636	4continuum.com

BENEFIT TERMINOLOGY

Allowed amount

This is the amount agreed upon between the provider and the insurance company for the service provided. It is almost always less than the billed amount, which is why enrollees see different amounts on their Explanation of Benefit statements (EOBs). For example, a provider may charge $120 per hour of psychotherapy, but the insurance company pays them $95—the allowed amount for that service.

Balance billing

When an out-of-network provider bills you for the difference between the provider's charge and the allowed amount. For example, if the provider's charge is $100 and the allowed amount is $70, the provider may bill you for the remaining $30. An in-network provider cannot balance bill you for the covered services.

Beneficiary

A person who is designated as the recipient of proceeds from an insurance policy.

Coinsurance

Your share of the costs of a covered medical service calculated as a percent of the allowed amount for the service. You pay coinsurance plus any deductibles you owe. Consider an example in which the medical plan's allowed amount for a medical service is $100 and you've met your deductible. If your plan pays 70%, then you are responsible for the remaining 30%, which is $30.

Copayment

Oftentimes referred to as a "copay," this is the amount you are responsible for paying when seeing a doctor, picking up a prescription, or visiting an urgent care facility or emergency room.

Deductible

The amount you must pay for eligible expenses before the plan begins to pay benefits. A deductible may be per service, per visit, per supply or per coverage year. For example, if your individual deductible is $1,500, your plan will not pay anything for certain medical services until you have paid $1,500. The deductible may not apply to all services, such as services that are covered by a copay.

Dependent

Dependents are usually an immediate relative, such as a spouse or child (up to age 26, as per the ACA), who is eligible to be included on your health insurance policy.

Dependent care FSA

A flexible spending account (FSA) is designed to provide tax-exempt funds that can be used to offset qualifying expenses for children and elderly dependents. Eligible dependent care expenses include daycare, before- and after-school care, summer day camps and eldercare for dependents claimed on your income taxes. Funds deposited in an FSA must be spent in the same year in which they are set aside, or they are forfeited. This rule is often referred to as "use it or lose it."

Diagnostic test

Medical tests designed to establish the presence (or absence) of disease as a basis for treatment decisions in symptomatic or screen positive individuals. Note that diagnostic tests are different than screening tests. Screenings are primarily designed to detect early disease or risk factors for disease in apparently healthy individuals.

Durable medical equipment (DME)

Equipment and supplies ordered by a health care provider for everyday or extended use. Coverage for DME may include oxygen equipment, wheelchairs or crutches.

BENEFIT TERMINOLOGY

Eligible expense

Amount on which payment is based for covered medical services. This may be called "allowed amount maximum," "payment allowance" or "negotiated rate." If an out-of-network provider charges more than the allowed amount, you may have to pay the difference. See balance billing.

Embedded deductible

Once a person covered under a family plan reaches the individual embedded deductible, all covered expenses for that individual will be paid at the coinsurance amount even when the family deductible may not have been satisfied. For example, $600 D PPO features an in-network family deductible of $1,200. If one member of the family satisfies the individual $600 deductible, the medical carrier will pay 80% of the remaining in-network expenses. Once another person or a combination of persons meet the remaining $600, the embedded family deductible is considered satisfied.

Embedded out-of-pocket maximum

Once a person covered under a family plan reaches the individual embedded out-of-pocket maximum, all covered expenses for that individual will be paid at 100% even when the family out-of-pocket maximum may not have been satisfied. For example, $600 D PPO features a family out-of-pocket maximum of $3,600. If one member of the family satisfies the individual out-of-pocket maximum of $1,800, the medical carrier will pay 100% of remaining in-network expenses for that individual. Once another person or a combination of persons meet the remaining portion, the embedded family out-of-pocket maximum is considered satisfied.

Employee contribution

The amount an employee contributes through payroll deductions for their medical and other insurance and savings program benefits.

Excluded services

Medical services that your medical plan doesn't pay for or cover.

Explanation of benefits

Every time you use your health insurance, your health plan sends you a record called an "explanation of benefits" (EOB) or "member health statement" that explains how much you may owe. The EOB also shows the total cost of care, how much your plan paid, and the amount an in-network doctor or other health care professional is allowed to charge a plan member (called the "allowed amount"). An EOB is generated for every single health claim, including prescriptions. It is not a bill, but rather a tool members can use to make sure they're not paying more than their insurer expects them to for services rendered.

Health care FSA

Funded through pre-tax payroll deductions, a health care flexible spending account (FSA) is a cost-savings tool that allows you to pay for qualified health care-related expenses with pre-tax dollars.

Generic drugs

Medications that are comparable to brand-name drugs in dosage form, strength, quality, performance characteristics and intended use, per the FDA. Generic drugs are almost always priced more attractively than their brand-name counterparts.

In-network coinsurance

The percentage you pay of the allowed amount for covered medical services to providers who contract with your health insurance carrier. In-network coinsurance costs you less than out-of-network coinsurance payments.

In-network provider

The facilities, providers and suppliers our health insurance carrier has contracted with to provide medical services. Your out-of-pocket expenses will be lower, and you will not be responsible for filing claims if you visit a participating in-network provider.

BENEFIT TERMINOLOGY

Mail order Rx

The Company's medical carrier offers this method of delivery for prescription drug orders to assist in delivering drugs more conveniently and at a lower cost. Through mail order, members can obtain a 90-day supply at one time versus a 30-day supply at a traditional pharmacy. Most suitable for maintenance medications or any drug taken daily, such as contraceptives or blood pressure medications, your copay is cheaper through mail order.

Medically necessary

Medical services or supplies needed to prevent, diagnose or treat an illness, injury, condition, disease or its symptoms, and that meet accepted standards of medicine.

Member health statement

Every time you use your health insurance, your health plan sends you a record called a "member health statement" or an "explanation of benefits" (EOB) that explains how much you may owe. The member health statement also shows the total cost of care, how much your plan paid and the amount an in-network doctor or other health care professional is allowed to charge a plan member (called the "allowed amount").

Negotiated rate

Amount on which payment is based for covered medical services. This may be called "allowed amount maximum," "payment allowance" or "eligible expense." If an out-of-network provider charges more than the allowed amount, you may have to pay the difference.

Network

The facilities, providers and suppliers a health insurance carrier has contracted with to provide medical services at a pre-negotiated discount. Your out-of-pocket expenses will be lower, and you will not be responsible for filing claims if you visit a participating in-network provider.

Non-preferred brand-name drugs

Generally, these are higher-cost medications that have recently come on the market. In most cases, an alternative preferred medication is available, be it a preferred brand-name drug or a generic.

Non-preferred provider

A provider who doesn't have a contract with your health insurer or plan to provide services to you. You'll pay more to see a non-preferred provider.

Open Enrollment

A period during which a health insurance company is required to accept applicants without regard to health history.

Out-of-network coinsurance

The percentage you pay of the allowed amount for covered medical services to providers who do not contract with your health insurance carrier. Out-of-network coinsurance costs you more than in-network coinsurance. An out-of-network provider can balance bill you for charges over the allowed amount.

Out-of-network provider

A provider who doesn't have a contract with your health insurer or plan to provide services to you. You'll pay more to see an out-of-network provider.

Out-of-pocket maximum

The most you pay during a policy period (a calendar year) before your plan begins to pay 100% of the allowed amount. This limit does not include your premium or balance-billed charges.

Over-the-counter drug

A drug that you can buy without a prescription from a drugstore or most general or grocery stores. For example, Benadryl, Tylenol, and Ibuprofen are sold over-the-counter. The opposite of a prescription drug.

Payment allowance

Amount on which payment is based for covered medical services. This may be called "allowed amount maximum," "negotiated rate" or "eligible expense." If an out-of-network provider charges more than the allowed amount, you may have to pay the difference.

BENEFIT TERMINOLOGY

Preauthorization

A medically necessary determination by a health insurance carrier for a medical service, treatment plan, prescription drug, medical or prosthetic device or certain types of durable medical equipment. Sometimes called preauthorization, prior authorization or prior approval, many plans require preauthorization for certain services before you can receive them, except in cases of emergency. Preauthorization isn't a promise your medical plan will cover the cost.

Preferred/brand-name drug

These are medications for which generic equivalents are not available. They have been on the market for some time and are widely accepted. They cost more than generic drugs, but less than non-preferred brand-name drugs.

Preferred provider

A provider who has a contract with your health insurer or plan to provide services to you at a pre-negotiated discount.

Prescription drugs

Medications you can only obtain with a prescription from your doctor. Prescriptions must be taken to a pharmacy (or sent to a mail-order facility) where a licensed pharmacist will fill it for you. For example, Lipitor, Vicodin and Albuterol can only be obtained with a prescription. The opposite of an over-the-counter drug.

Prescription drug coverage

Coverage that helps pay for prescription drugs and medications covered under a health insurance carrier's formulary. A formulary is the list of FDA-approved drugs covered under a medical plan. Each drug is classified into a tier and each tier determines the copayment you will pay for the drug. These tiers typically, but not always, are: Generic, Preferred Brand, Non-Preferred Brand, and Specialty.

Your cost will depend on the level of drug specified by your doctor. A generic drug is a medication whose active ingredients, safety, dosage, quality and strength are identical to that of its brand-name counterpart. Preferred brand-name drugs generally do not have a generic equivalent, while those listed as non-preferred brand-name drugs generally do have a generic or preferred brand-name equivalent.

Your copay for preferred brand-name drugs is less than the copay for non-preferred brand-name drugs because you don't have the generic option available to you.

Pre-tax deduction

Payments deducted from your gross pay before Medicare, federal, and state taxes are calculated, thus reducing your taxable wages and tax liability.

Prior approval/authorization

A medically necessary determination by a health insurance carrier for a medical service, treatment plan, prescription drug, medical or prosthetic device or certain types of durable medical equipment. Sometimes called preauthorization, prior authorization or precertification, many plans require preauthorization for certain services before you can receive them, except in cases of emergency. Preauthorization isn't a promise your medical plan will cover the cost.

BENEFIT TERMINOLOGY

Post-tax deduction

Payments deducted from your net pay after Medicare, federal and state taxes are calculated, thereby having no impact on your taxable wages and tax liability.

Preventive care

Medical treatments performed with the intention of preventing a health issue. For example, vaccinations and age-appropriate screenings are almost always considered to be preventive.

Primary care physician (PCP)

A physician who directly provides or coordinates a wide range of medical services for a patient. Primary care physicians include medical doctors, doctors of osteopathic medicine, internists, family practitioners, general practitioners, OB/GYNs and pediatricians. The opposite of a specialist.

Provider

A physician, health care professional or health care facility, certified or accredited as required by state law.

Qualifying life event (QLE)

QLEs are major events in an enrollee's life that allow them to make specific changes to their insurance policy outside of an annual Open Enrollment period. This usually includes the birth or adoption of a child, marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or change in the spouse's employment or insurance status. These changes must typically be made within 31 days of the QLE.

Special enrollment period

Special enrollment periods allow you to make changes to your insurance plan or sign up for a new policy outside of Open Enrollment. They're almost always triggered by QLEs.

Scan this code to watch a video about benefit terms.

Specialist

A physician who focuses on a specific area of medicine or a group of patients to diagnose, manage, prevent or treat for certain types of symptoms and conditions. The opposite of a primary care physician. For example, a dermatologist is considered a specialist.

Specialty drugs

Prescription medications that require special handling, administration or monitoring. These drugs are used to treat complex, chronic conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, hepatitis C and hemophilia.

Telehealth

Telehealth is the use of telecommunication technologies through which you and your personal physician, who is treating you and knows your health history, can talk live over the phone or video chat, by appointment, during regular office hours. Services such as medication management, regular visits and online counseling are particularly well suited to Telehealth, since consistent and regular visits with your physician typically improve outcomes.

Telemedicine

Telemedicine is the use of telecommunication technologies where you and an on-call physician can talk live (24/7/365) over the phone or video chat. Services that are particularly well-suited to telemedicine include the discussion of symptoms, receiving a diagnosis, learning your treatment options and minor health issues such as pink eye or sore throat. Prescription can also be facilitated through telemedicine. Please note that each time you reach out for telemedicine services, you might speak with a different physician.

Urgent care

An illness or injury serious enough that a reasonable person would seek care right away, but not so severe as to require emergency room care.

Wellness

Wellness refers to a healthy state of being.

NOTES

Employee Benefits Notices and Forms

Annual, New Hire, and Other Notices and Forms

Please note: While HUB is providing these notices as a courtesy to its clients, HUB does not provide legal or tax advice. HUB makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of these documents and is not obligated to update them. Consult your attorney and/or professional advisor as to your organization's specific circumstances and legal, tax or other requirements.

HUB

Medicare Part D Creditable Coverage Notice

Important Notice from Lancaster County About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Lancaster County (the "Plan Sponsor") and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

(1) Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.

(2) The Plan Sponsor has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by Lancaster County is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Plan Sponsor coverage may be affected. Moreover, if you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Plan Sponsor coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

Please contact the person listed at the end of this notice for more information about what happens to your coverage if you enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription Drug Plan.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with the Plan Sponsor and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information about This Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage…

Contact the person listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through the Plan Sponsor changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information about Your Options under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage…

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date:	January 1, 2026
Name of Entity/Sender:	Melissa Zahourek
Contact-Position/Office:	Benefits Manager
Address:	555 S. 10th St. Ste 302 Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone Number:	402-441-7597

Annual Notice of Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act

Do you know that your plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Right Act of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services, including all stages of reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses and treatment for complications resulting from a mastectomy, including lymphedema? Call your plan administrator at **402-441-7597** for more information.

Notice of Availability of HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

Lancaster County (each a "Plan") maintains a Notice of Privacy Practices that provides information to individuals whose protected health information (PHI) will be used or maintained by the Plan. If you would like a copy of the Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices, please contact Human Resources at 402-441-7597.

Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment no later than **30 days** after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment no later than **30 days** after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

Effective April 1, 2009, if either of the following two events occur, you will have **60 days** after the date of the event to request enrollment in your employer's plan:

- Your dependents lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage because they are no longer eligible.
- Your dependents become eligible for a state's premium assistance program.

To take advantage of special enrollment rights, you must experience a qualifying event *and* provide the employer plan with timely notice of the event and your enrollment request.

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact Human Resource Dept. at **402-441-7597**

CHIPRA/CHIP Notice

Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren't eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won't be eligible for these premium assistance programs but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit **www.healthcare.gov**.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **www.insurekidsnow.gov** to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at **www.askebsa.dol.gov** or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272)**.

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2025. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

ALABAMA – Medicaid	ALASKA – Medicaid
Website: http://myalhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-692-5447	The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program Website: http://myakhipp.com/ Phone: 1-866-251-4861 Email: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx
ARKANSAS – Medicaid	**CALIFORNIA – Medicaid**
Website: http://myarhipp.com/ Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)	Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website: http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Phone: 916-445-8322 Fax: 916-440-5676 Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov
COLORADO – Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) & Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+)	**FLORIDA – Medicaid**
Health First Colorado Website: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/ Health First Colorado Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711 CHP+: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711 Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): https://www.mycohibi.com/ HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442	Website: https://www.flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/flmedicaidtplrecovery.com/hipp/index.html Phone: 1-877-357-3268

GEORGIA – Medicaid	INDIANA – Medicaid
GA HIPP Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1 GA CHIPRA Website: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2	Health Insurance Premium Payment Program All other Medicaid Website: https://www.in.gov/medicaid/ http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/ Family and Social Services Administration Phone: 1-800-403-0864 Member Services Phone: 1-800-457-4584
IOWA – Medicaid and CHIP (Hawki)	**KANSAS – Medicaid**
Medicaid Website: Iowa Medicaid | Health & Human Services Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366 Hawki Website: Hawki - Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa | Health & Human Services Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563 HIPP Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) | Health & Human Services (iowa.gov) HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562	Website: https://www.kancare.ks.gov/ Phone: 1-800-792-4884 HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660
KENTUCKY – Medicaid	**LOUISIANA – Medicaid**
Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx Phone: 1-855-459-6328 Email: KIHIPP.PROGRAM@ky.gov KCHIP Website: https://kynect.ky.gov Phone: 1-877-524-4718 Kentucky Medicaid Website: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms	Website: www.medicaid.la.gov or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or 1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)
MAINE – Medicaid	**MASSACHUSETTS – Medicaid and CHIP**
Enrollment Website: https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US Phone: 1-800-442-6003 TTY: Maine relay 711 Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms Phone: 1-800-977-6740 TTY: Maine relay 711	Website: https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa Phone: 1-800-862-4840 TTY: 711 Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com
MINNESOTA – Medicaid	**MISSOURI – Medicaid**
Website: https://mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage/ Phone: 1-800-657-3672	Website: http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm Phone: 573-751-2005

MONTANA – Medicaid	NEBRASKA – Medicaid
Website: http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP Phone: 1-800-694-3084 Email: HHSHIPPProgram@mt.gov	Website: http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov Phone: 1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
NEVADA – Medicaid	**NEW HAMPSHIRE – Medicaid**
Medicaid Website: http://dhcfp.nv.gov Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900	Website: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program Phone: 603-271-5218 Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 15218 Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov
NEW JERSEY – Medicaid and CHIP	**NEW YORK – Medicaid**
Medicaid Website: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assistance Phone: 609-631-2392 CHIP Website: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710 (TTY: 711)	Website: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ Phone: 1-800-541-2831
NORTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	**NORTH DAKOTA – Medicaid**
Website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/ Phone: 919-855-4100	Website: https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare Phone: 1-844-854-4825
OKLAHOMA – Medicaid and CHIP	**OREGON – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: http://www.insureoklahoma.org Phone: 1-888-365-3742	Website: http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx Phone: 1-800-699-9075
PENNSYLVANIA – Medicaid and CHIP	**RHODE ISLAND – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: https://www.pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html Phone: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP Website: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov) CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)	Website: http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/ Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or 401-462-0311 (Direct RIte Share Line)
SOUTH CAROLINA – Medicaid	**SOUTH DAKOTA - Medicaid**
Website: https://www.scdhhs.gov Phone: 1-888-549-0820	Website: http://dss.sd.gov Phone: 1-888-828-0059

TEXAS – Medicaid	UTAH – Medicaid and CHIP
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program | Texas Health and Human Services Phone: 1-800-440-0493	Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP) Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/upp/ Email: upp@utah.gov Phone: 1-888-222-2542 Adult Expansion Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/ Utah Medicaid Buyout Program Website: https://medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/ CHIP Website: https://chip.utah.gov/
VERMONT– Medicaid	**VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program | Department of Vermont Health Access Phone: 1-800-250-8427	Website: https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924
WASHINGTON – Medicaid	**WEST VIRGINIA – Medicaid and CHIP**
Website: https://www.hca.wa.gov/ Phone: 1-800-562-3022	Website: https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/ http://mywvhipp.com/ Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700 CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIPP (1-855-699-8447)
WISCONSIN – Medicaid and CHIP	**WYOMING – Medicaid**
Website: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm Phone: 1-800-362-3002	Website: https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/ Phone: 1-800-251-1269

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since July 31, 2025, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
www.cms.hhs.gov
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

PART A: General Information

Even if you are offered health coverage through your employment, you may have other coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace ("Marketplace"). To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the Health Insurance Marketplace and health coverage offered through your employment.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options in your geographic area.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium and other out-of-pocket costs, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that is not considered affordable for you and doesn't meet certain minimum value standards (discussed below). The savings that you're eligible for depends on your household income. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your costs.

Does Employment-Based Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that is considered affordable for you and meets certain minimum value standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit, or advance payment of the tax credit, for your Marketplace coverage and may wish to enroll in your employment-based health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payments of the credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing, if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that is considered affordable for you or meet minimum value standards. If your share of the premium cost of all plans offered to you through your employment is more than 9.12% of your annual household income, or if the coverage through your employment does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit, and advance payment of the credit, if you do not enroll in the employment-based health coverage. For family members of the employee, coverage is considered affordable if the employee's cost of premiums for the lowest-cost plan that would cover all family members does not exceed 9.12% of the employee's household income.[1, 2]

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered through your employment, then you may lose access to whatever the employer contributes to the employment-based coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employment-based coverage- is generally excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis. In addition, note that if the health coverage offered through your employment does not meet the affordability or minimum value standards, but you accept that coverage anyway, you will not be eligible for a tax credit. You should consider all of these factors in determining whether to purchase a health plan through the Marketplace.

[1] Indexed annually; see https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-22-34.pdf for 2023.
[2] An employer-sponsored or other employment-based health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs. For purposes of eligibility for the premium tax credit, to meet the "minimum value standard," the health plan must also provide substantial coverage of both inpatient hospital services and physician services.

When Can I Enroll in Health Insurance Coverage through the Marketplace?

You can enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan during the annual Marketplace Open Enrollment Period. Open Enrollment varies by state but generally starts November 1 and continues through at least December 15.

Outside the annual Open Enrollment Period, you can sign up for health insurance if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. In general, you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period if you've had certain qualifying life events, such as getting married, having a baby, adopting a child, or losing eligibility for other health coverage. Depending on your Special Enrollment Period type, you may have 60 days before or 60 days following the qualifying life event to enroll in a Marketplace plan.

There is also a Marketplace Special Enrollment Period for individuals and their families who lose eligibility for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage on or after March 31, 2023, through November 30, 2024. Since the onset of the nationwide COVID-19 public health emergency, state Medicaid and CHIP agencies generally have not terminated the enrollment of any Medicaid or CHIP beneficiary who was enrolled on or after March 18, 2020, through March 31, 2023. As state Medicaid and CHIP agencies resume regular eligibility and enrollment practices, many individuals may no longer be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP coverage starting as early as March 31, 2023. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services **is offering a temporary Marketplace Special Enrollment period to allow these individuals to enroll in Marketplace coverage**.

Marketplace-eligible individuals who live in states served by HealthCare.gov and either- submit a new application or update an existing application on HealthCare.gov between March 31, 2023 and November 30, 2024, and attest to a termination date of Medicaid or CHIP coverage within the same time period, are eligible for a 60-day Special Enrollment Period. **That means that if you lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023, and November 30, 2024, you may be able to enroll in Marketplace coverage within 60 days of when you lost Medicaid or CHIP coverage.** In addition, if you or your family members are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage, it is important to make sure that your contact information is up to date to make sure you get any information about changes to your eligibility. To learn more, visit HealthCare.gov or call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596. TTY users can call 1-855-889-4325.

What about Alternatives to Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage?

If you or your family are eligible for coverage in an employment-based health plan (such as an employer-sponsored health plan), you or your family may also be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in that health plan in certain circumstances, including if you or your dependents were enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP coverage and lost that coverage. Generally, you have 60 days after the loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage to enroll in an employment-based health plan, but if you and your family lost eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP coverage between March 31, 2023 and July 10, 2023, you can request this special enrollment in the employment-based health plan through September 8, 2023. Confirm the deadline with your employer or your employment-based health plan.

Alternatively, you can enroll in Medicaid or CHIP coverage at any time by filling out an application through the Marketplace or applying directly through your state Medicaid agency. Visit https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip/getting-medicaid-chip/ for more details.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered through your employment, please check your health plan's summary plan description or contact **Human Resources at 402-441-7597**.

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

Part B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer name Lancaster County	4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 47-6006482
5. Employer address, 7. City, 8. State, 9. Zip Code 555 S. 10th St. Ste 302 Lincoln, NE 68508	6. Employer phone number 402-441-7597
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Human Resources	
11. Phone number (if different from above) 402-441-7597	12. Email address hrbenefits@lincoln.ne.gov

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:
  - ☒ All employees. Eligible employees are:

    Working 30 or more hours per week

  - ☐ Some employees. Eligible employees are:

- With respect to dependents:
  - ☒ We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

    Legally married spouse, biological children, stepchildren, adopted children, or children for whom you have legal custody of (age restrictions may apply), and disabled children age 26 or older who meet certain criteria.

  - ☐ We do not offer coverage.

☒ If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

General COBRA Notice

General Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights

Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA

Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage **must pay** for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);

- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

When is COBRA continuation coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: Human Resources.

How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage.

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at **www.healthcare.gov**.

Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the

Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period[1] to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit **https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you**.

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit **www.dol.gov/ebsa**. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit **www.HealthCare.gov**.

Keep your Plan informed of address changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

Plan contact information

Human Resources, 555 S. 10th St. Ste 302 Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-441-7597.

[1] **https://www.medicare.gov/basics/get-started-with-medicare/sign-up/how-do-i-sign-up-for-medicare.**