

Every Artist Insured: Finding Affordable Coverage in a Changing Landscape

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www.actorsfund.org/ahirc

**The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment.**

What is The Actors Fund?

The Actors Fund is a nationwide human services organization that fosters stability and resiliency, and provides a safety net for performing arts and entertainment professionals over their lifespan

www.actorsfund.org

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SOCIAL SERVICES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

With respect and understanding, our professional social workers offer our community help to address a wide array of challenges via counseling and support groups, education, emergency financial assistance and practical help—completely free of charge.



THE CAREER CENTER

Career counseling, employment training and job development to help you find work that can be done while continuing in the industry or while developing a new professional direction. Career Transition For Dancers helps dancers to thrive during all phases of their careers.



HEALTH & HEALTH INSURANCE

The Actors Fund offers personalized health insurance counseling, guidance and enrollment support; referrals to health care resources; and primary medical care for everyone in entertainment at The Friedman Health Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.



HOUSING

The Actors Fund operates several affordable housing residences across the country. We also offer resources to help you learn more about affordable housing opportunities and other housing-related issues.

LEARN MORE www.actorsfund.org/ahirc



HEALTH CARE TUTORIALS

A series of Animated Health Care Tutorials on important topics for our community. Written by our experts at The Fund's Artists Health Insurance Resource Center and narrated by Fund Chairman Brian Stokes Mitchell, Kate Baldwin and Telly Leung.

WATCH THE VIDEOS

HEALTH
INSURANCE
HQ



EVERY ARTIST INSURED - NATIONAL WEBINAR

This webinar offers a comprehensive, unbiased overview of your health insurance options nationally. It's geared towards those who are losing coverage through a union or job, as well as those who have never had coverage before.

LEARN MORE



HELP WITH MEDICARE COSTS

This video provides a short overview of programs that can help you save money if you're on Medicare. It includes programs that help cover costs, eligibility requirements and information on how to apply.

LEARN MORE



Words to Know

- Premium
- Deductible
- Co-pay
- Co-insurance
- Out-of-pocket maximum
 - 2022: \$8700/ single
- In-Network & Out-of-Network
- HMO, EPO & PPO
- Federal Poverty Level
- Marketplace/Exchange
- Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC aka subsidy)

What Are The Rules for 2022?

- Insurers can't refuse coverage to anyone, or exclude pre-existing conditions
- There's no penalty for being uninsured in NY and most other states, but there is in NJ, CA, DC, MA, RI, VT

What Are The Rules for 2022?

- Most plans must cover certain preventive services for free, incl: breast, colon and cervical cancer screenings; blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol tests; vaccines, immunizations, and flu shots; and HIV & STD testing.
- Medicaid eligibility has been expanded to people with incomes up to 138% of FPL (approx \$17,775/yr) in **all** states *except*: AL, FL, GA, KS, MS, NC, SC, SD, TN, TX, WI, WY

Buyer Beware! Junk Insurance

Faith-Based Share Plans and Short-Term Plans

- Short-term plans are not legal in NJ or NY
- Read what benefits are being offered carefully!
- These plans may be cheaper, but they don't have to comply with ACA regulations
- Red flags: “membership fee”, “not major medical”, “discounts of up to X%”

When can I enroll?

In New York and New Jersey, **Open Enrollment** is from **November 1 – January 31 every year. New York and NJ have extended Open Enrollment all year in 2021 due to COVID.**

For all states that use www.healthcare.gov, Open Enrollment is from Nov 1 – Dec 15.

What's a Special Enrollment Period?

If you don't sign up during Open Enrollment, you can sign up if any of these things happen:

- Loss of union, employer, or COBRA coverage
- getting married or divorced
- being pregnant, having a baby
- moving to another state/county
- change in immigration status
- turning 26 years old and aging off parent's plan

You have **60 days** from the date of these events to enroll.

Are there other exceptions?

You can apply for insurance at any time if...

- you're eligible for Medicaid
- you're eligible for the Essential Plan (NY only)
- you're putting a child on Child Health Insurance Program
- you're buying insurance for a small business

What Are My Options Right Now?

- COBRA if you have coverage through a job or union
- Coverage purchased directly from an insurer
- Coverage purchased from the Marketplace/Exchange
- Programs like Medicaid and the Essential Plan

COBRA

- COBRA is a law lets you keep your employer or union-based coverage for 18 months and sometimes longer.
- Usually, you have 60 days from loss of job coverage to choose COBRA. During the 'nat'l emergency' this time period is waived. You can elect COBRA at any time.
- However, you usually have to pay the full cost of your health insurance, and it's often very expensive.

What is the NYS COBRA subsidy?

- Program re-started on October 1; COBRA.application@dfs.ny.gov
- Provides a 50% subsidy for COBRA premiums for those with coverage through entertainment union health plans who live in NY
- 12 month lifetime max
- Gross income in prior month must be < \$2683 (1) or \$3629 (2)
- https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/health_insurance/continuation_assistance_demonstration_program_for_entertainment_industry_employees

Where Do I Go to Enroll in Marketplace Coverage, Medicaid or the Essential Plan?

You can shop for plans and buy coverage online at <http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov> or call 855-355-5777.

If you live in NJ, go to <https://nj.gov/getcoverednj/>

Request individual counseling from our Navigators here: <https://theactorsfund.submittable.com/submit>

What am I enrolling in?

The Marketplace will determine whether you are eligible for one the following, based on your household size and income:

- Medicaid
- Essential Plan (NY only)
- Qualified Health Plan
 - with an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (subsidy)
 - at full cost, no financial assistance

Before you go online, have ready...

The names of doctors and hospitals you'd like to use. Call ahead and ask what they are 'in-network with on the Marketplace'.

- Legal name, Social Security Number, Date of birth
- Tax filing status
- The name and address of all employers
- Income information (you are estimating 2022 income; if you're a sole prop, make sure to have your last 1040 & Schedule C)
- ALL immigration documents (green card, visas, etc)

Mandated Benefits (Medicaid, EP, QHP)

Hospitalization

Office visits (PCP/Specialist)

Emergency Room

Ambulance

Mental Health treatment

Substance Abuse treatment

Physical Therapy

Medications

Diagnostic and lab work

X-Rays and Imaging

Preventive Screenings (free)

Maternity care

Chiropraxis (EP and QHP only)

Gym reimbursement (QHP only)

How do I calculate my income right now?

If you are applying for 2022 (after Nov 16), you are estimating your **2022 modified adjusted gross income**. There are several ways to do this:

1. Use your Adjusted Gross Income from your most recent tax return – line 11 of 2020.
 - use this method if you estimate your income this year to be within 10% of that

How do I calculate my income for 2022?

2. Estimate your income in 2022 based on the following, and use only what you KNOW you will receive:

- **Add up your gross W2 income**
- **Add your net self-employed income (use average of prior 3 months)**
- **Add any other sources** of income (interest, unemployment benefits, dividends, rental income, residuals, etc)
- Anything that would show up on your tax return needs to be included

What about Pandemic Stimulus Payments?

- Do not include the one-time \$600 and \$1400 stimulus payment in your estimate, or the \$300/wk payments, since those won't be available in 2022
- You can always exclude any cash gifts up to \$15,000 from your income estimate.

Tips for filling out the application...

- Click “yes I want financial assistance”
- If “Department of Labor” comes up as an employer, remove it
- Put your unemployment benefits in the “additional benefits” section
- If your insurance is ending within 30 days, say “I don’t currently have insurance”
- Any income you list must be documentable.

What is Medicaid ?

- Medicaid provides comprehensive health insurance at **no cost** to patients. There are **no premiums or deductibles**, and very small Rx co-pays.
- It covers you for 12 months. If your income increases, you *may* be able to stay on Medicaid.
- **GET ON MEDICAID** now if you qualify.
- In most states, incl NY and NJ, you can apply through your Marketplace website.

Who is eligible in states that expanded Medicaid?

- If you are under 65 y/o, there are 2 ways to be eligible:
- Annual eligibility: your annual income is under **\$17,775** (single) or **\$24,040** (couple), *or*
- Current month eligibility: your income in the current month was below the monthly income limit (**\$1482** single, **\$2004** couple), *regardless of your income the rest of the year.*

What is the Essential Plan?

- Provides comprehensive health insurance.
- The premium is \$0/mo beginning June 1, 2021.
- Dental and vision will be included for free beginning June 1.
- Income limits: \$25,760 (1), \$34,840 (2) etc
- Eligibility: You must be between 19-64 and meet income guidelines. US citizens and “lawfully present” non-citizens are eligible.
- Coverage lasts up to 12 months

What if I don't qualify for Medicaid or EP?

- You are eligible for coverage on the Marketplace/Exchange and can buy a **Qualified Health Plan (QHP)**
- Costs vary by county, household size, type of plan, and insurer.
- You may be eligible for an Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) to lower the cost of your premiums.

Explain the Advanced Premium Tax Credit

- You can take the credit in advance, or when you file your taxes.
- **Advance payments are made to the insurer monthly.**
- If you are married, you must file *jointly* to receive the APTC

Increased Subsidies in ARPA

- ARPA increased the subsidies to those already on Marketplace plans, making them cheaper.
- In addition, people making more than 400% FPL will qualify for subsidies for the first time.

How do I figure out my APTC and premiums?

Estimate Financial Help ×

County

New York ▼

Number of Members in Household

1 ?

Enter number of adults needing coverage

1 ?

Children under Age 19

0

Are there any dependents ages 26 to 29 applying for coverage? ?

Yes No

Total Household Income per Year

\$ 28000 ?

Estimated Financial Help

Estimate Financial Help ?

558.52

Calculate

Reset

How do I pick a plan?

- “Name brand” is not better!
- How frequently do you use the healthcare system? Cost of meds, treatments, labwork, upcoming surgery...
- What is your budget?
- What are your doctors in-network with?

What are the different levels of coverage?



Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze

Monthly Cost

\$\$\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$

\$

Cost When You Get Care

\$

\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$\$\$

Good Option If You...

plan to use a lot of health care services

want to save on monthly premiums while keeping your out-of-pocket costs low

need to balance your monthly premium with your out-of-pocket costs

don't plan to need a lot of health care services

How do I get the most bang for my buck?

- Look for Non-Standard plans (NS) on the Marketplace that offer additional benefits and/or services not subject to the deductible.
- All companies in NYC *except* Blue Cross Blue Shield HealthPlus offer non-standard plans.
- Always read the “Summary of Benefits”!

What if I'm uninsured? Hospital Services and Medications

- Two programs that cover inpatient, outpatient, and drug costs for the uninsured:
 - NYC Care: <https://www.nyccare.nyc/>
 - HHC Options: <https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/paying-for-your-health-care/hhc-options/>
- Get discounted or free prescription drugs at NeedyMeds: www.needymeds.org
- Compare drug prices at pharmacies at www.goodrx.com

www.goodrx.com comparison for Lexapro:

Walmart

\$15.00
retail price

LEARN MORE

Target (CVS) 

~~\$61~~ retail
Save 44%

\$33.45
with free discount

GET FREE DISCOUNT

CVS Pharmacy 

~~\$56~~ retail
Save 39%

\$33.45
with free discount

GET FREE DISCOUNT

Walgreens

~~\$177~~ retail
Save 75%

\$43.00
with free coupon

GET FREE COUPON

Community, a Walgreens Pharmacy

~~\$177~~ retail
Save 75%

\$43.00
with free coupon

GET FREE COUPON

Friedman Health Center for the Performing Arts

in partnership with Mount Sinai Doctors

www.actorsfund.org/HealthCenter or 212-930-7300

- Internal and family medicine, gynecology, podiatry
- Convenient – in the heart of Times Square!
- Current Hours: Mon-Fr: 8:30am-7pm
- Make an appointment through ZocDoc!
- Insurance: all union plans, many employer plans, Workers Comp, Medicare, the Empire BCBS and HealthFirst Essential Plans, and Oscar, BCBS, HealthFirst and Emblem Marketplace plans

Subsidized visits at the Friedman Center

Friedman Health Center: 212-930-7300

You may be eligible for 3 subsidized office or telehealth visits at \$40 each including lab work; this program is sponsored by BCEFA. Labwork is donated by BioReference.

Eligibility criteria:

1. General income \$25,760-\$61,000
2. Industry income: \$3K in each of 3 out of last 5 years or \$5K in each of 10 out of last 20 years

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