

# Special Enrollment Period for Consumer at or below 200% FPL

Training for assisters:  
Navigators, agents, brokers and enrollment counselors

March 2022



NEW MEXICO HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

A photograph of a family consisting of a man, a woman, and two children. They are all smiling and holding a large orange sign that has the text "be well nm" written on it in white lowercase letters. The sign is positioned in front of the family, partially obscuring them.

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# Disclaimer

The information provided in this presentation is an informal summary of beWellnm's policies and practices as of the date it is presented. It is not intended to take the place of the statutes, regulations, and formal policy guidance that it is based upon.

We encourage you to refer to the applicable statutes, regulations, and other resources for complete and current information about the requirements that apply to, or affect, your role.



# Agenda

- Introduction
- Eligibility
- Details
- Resources



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## A new Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

In September 2021, HHS established a new SEP to give low-income consumers additional enrollment opportunities and allow them to benefit from the increased financial help available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

The Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) established this SEP for consumers who have an estimated annual household income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).



# Introduction (cont'd)

## A new Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

State-based Marketplaces (SBMs) that operate their own eligibility and enrollment platforms also have the option to offer this SEP.

**New Mexico has implemented this SEP for consumers with incomes up to 200% FPL.**

\*An estimated 12,000 uninsured New Mexicans with incomes between 139%-200% of the FPL may be eligible to enroll in coverage through this SEP. The majority of these individuals will qualify for free or low-cost plans with very low deductibles and out-of-pocket costs.



## Who is eligible?

New Mexico consumers are eligible to enroll in coverage through this SEP if:

- ✓ their household income does not exceed 200% of the FPL; and
- ✓ they are eligible for a premium tax credit; and
- ✓ they aren't eligible for Medicaid.



## Who is eligible?

Remember:

- Consumers must be eligible for premium tax credits in order to take advantage of this SEP. This means that regardless of income, the SEP is not available to consumers who are eligible for:
  - Medicaid
  - premium-free Medicare Part A
  - an employer-sponsored health plan that provides minimum value and is considered affordable
  
- This SEP is only available through beWellnm, since premium tax credits aren't available outside the Marketplace.



## When is the SEP available?

- The 200% FPL SEP is available through beWellnm beginning March 22, 2022.
- Unlike most other SEPs based on qualifying life events, the 200% FLP SEP doesn't have a deadline. Consumers may enroll in Marketplace coverage through this SEP any time during the year, if eligible.



## How will the SEP affect the application process?

- Eligible consumers with a household income at or below 200% FPL can submit a new application, or update an existing application.
- The application will automatically determine the consumer's eligibility for the SEP. Consumers don't need to submit documentation to confirm their SEP eligibility.
- However, if the income information from trusted data sources doesn't match the consumer's projected income, beWellnm will still ask the consumer to submit proof of income to ensure that the consumer receives the correct amount of premium tax credits and savings.



## What information do consumers need to know?

- Consumers must meet the following deadlines:
  - Enroll by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month for coverage that starts on the first day of the following month.
  - Pay any premium due (other than the first month's payment (binder payments)) by the last day of the month before the month of coverage (e.g., for April coverage the payment is due on March 31). SEP binder payments are due on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month or within 7 days after requesting the enrollment, whichever is later.
  
- Consumers can change plans once per month.
  - Consumers who change plans should be aware that deductibles and out-of-pocket costs will reset to \$0 for the year when the new plan starts.



## What information do consumers need to know?

Because eligibility for coverage through this SEP requires that consumers be eligible for a premium tax credit with a projected household income at or below 200% of the FPL, consumers should return to their applications as soon as possible to report any changes in their household or income.



## Is the new SEP permanent?

No (at least not yet). The new SEP is based on the ARP enhanced subsidies, which are only in place through the end of 2022. The Build Back Better Act (the version that passed the House in November 2021) calls for some of these savings to be extended through 2025.

However, this legislation stalled in the Senate. Whether the new SEP is only available through the end of 2022 or is available in future years depends on whether Congress extends the ARP's enhanced subsidies.



Questions?

Contact beWellnm at 1-833-862-3935, option 5



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