

From the desk of Mary Latimore,  Licensed Life/Health agent certified with Healthcare.gov.

Obamacare open enrollment 2015 starts on November 15, 2014. – Are you ready for coverage? Call me at 595-8156. I can help you make sure you get good pricing with the health premium credit available to you when you enroll. Sign up at www.alabama-tax-diva.com to receive reminders before important coverage deadlines, as well as notifications when new prices and plans for 2015 are available.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED WHEN APPLYING FOR HEALTH COVERAGE ONLINE?

- Last year's tax information for you and your family.
- Projected incomes for this year.
- Medical history.
- Social Security Numbers (or document numbers for legal immigrants).
- Employer and income information for every member of your household who needs coverage.
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance plans covering members of your household.
- A completed Employer Coverage Tool for every job-based plan you or someone in your household is eligible for. (You'll need to fill out this form even for coverage you're eligible for but don't enroll in.)
- Have with you any other important information that could affect your health insurance premium or coverage options.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PLANS OFFERED IN THE MARKETPLACE?

The Marketplace offers:



Bronze Plans

This is the lowest cost plan available.

It has the lowest premiums and the lowest actuarial value. The actuarial value of a bronze plan is 60%. This means that 60% of medical costs are paid for by the insurance company, leaving the other 40% to be paid by you.



Silver Plans

This is the second lowest cost plan.

It has an actuarial value of 70%. This means that 70% of medical costs are paid for by the insurance company, leaving the other 30% to be paid by you.



Gold Plans

This is the second most expensive plan.

It has an actuarial value of 80%. This means that 80% of medical costs are paid for by the insurance company, leaving the other 20% to be paid by you.



Platinum Plans

This is the plan with the highest premiums.

The Platinum plan has an actuarial value of 90%. This means that 90% of medical costs are paid for by the insurance company, leaving the other 10% to be paid by you.

THE PENALTY YOU PAY IF YOU DON'T HAVE HEALTH COVERAGE

If you don't have health coverage in 2014, you may have to pay a penalty. You also have to pay for all of your health care. The penalty is sometimes called the "penalty," "fee", "fine," "individual responsibility payment," or "individual mandate."

Important. The fee in 2014 and beyond.

The penalty in 2014 is calculated one of 2 ways. If you or your dependents don't have insurance that qualifies as [minimum essential coverage](#) you'll pay whichever of these amounts is higher:

- **1% of your yearly household income.** (Only the amount of income above the tax filing threshold, \$10,150 for an individual, is used to calculate the penalty.) The maximum penalty is the national average premium for a bronze plan.
- **\$95 per person for the year (\$47.50 per child under 18).** The maximum penalty per family using this method is \$285.

The way the penalty is calculated, a single adult with household income below \$19,650 would pay the \$95 flat rate. A single adult with household income above \$19,650 would pay an amount based on the 1% rate. (If income is below \$10,150, no penalty is owed.)

The penalty increases every year. In 2015 it's 2% of income or \$325 per person. In 2016 and later years it's 2.5% of income or \$695 per person. After that it's adjusted for inflation.

If you're uninsured for just part of the year, 1/12 of the yearly penalty applies to each month you're uninsured. If you're uninsured for less than 3 months, you don't have to make a payment.

You'll pay the fee on your 2014 federal income tax return. Most people will file this return in 2015.

