



Adult Tax Dependents

Office of Medicaid Eligibility and Policy
Medicaid Eligibility and Community Support
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Background & Overview

Background

Today, adult tax dependents have to apply as the primary applicant on their own application when eligible for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid). The tax filer claiming the adult as a tax dependent cannot get Apple Health for the tax dependent.

The most common scenario is when a parent is applying for their 19 year old child who is their tax dependent.

- The 19 year old is denied under their parent's application and must file their own application to be approved for Apple Health.

Overview of change

Effective July 15th, systems will support adult tax dependents applying for or renewing Apple Health with the person who claims them as a tax dependent.

Tax dependents of the primary applicant will be approved or renewed Apple Health regardless of age or relationship as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Adult tax dependents can still apply on their own if they choose.

Individuals who are 19 years old or older and are not the spouse or tax dependent of the primary applicant must still apply on their own.

Renewals & Correspondence

Renewals

The month before a tax dependent turns 19, the system tries to auto-renew Apple Health coverage.

When eligible for ongoing Apple Health, the tax dependent's coverage will change to the relevant program based on income and other circumstances (for most, it will be Apple Health for Adults).

If the application cannot be auto-renewed, the household must manually renew it.

September renewals going through auto-renewal starting August 1st will be the first auto-renewals impacted by this change.

Coverage Options for Adult Dependents (EE022)

Coverage Options for Adult Dependents

Dear <TAX DEPENDENT>,

You are receiving Washington Apple Health coverage as a tax dependent on the application of <Primary Applicant>. This coverage was approved through Washington Healthplanfinder.

No action is required unless you want to apply for health care coverage separately from <Primary Applicant>. Applying for coverage separately allows you to:

- Manage your personal information;
- Select the plan of your choice (if more than one is available);
- Directly interact with the health care plan after enrollment.

If you would like to apply for your own coverage, you can complete an application:

Online www.wahealthplanfinder.org

Call 1-855-923-4633

Mail or Fax: print and return a paper application from <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/18-001P.pdf>

If you have any questions, call the Health Care Authority at 1-800-562-3022.

Scenarios

Scenarios

Scenario One

Mom and dad are married and they file their taxes together. They receive Apple Health for Adults.

Their child Jazzlyn turns 19 in November. She is their tax dependent and on Apple Health for Kids through November 30, 2019.

Their household's income is \$2100/month or 118% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

On October 2, the system sends the application through auto-renewal for Jazzlyn.

Scenarios

Scenario One Outcome

The income on the application is reasonably compatible with data sources.

Jazzlyn automatically switches to Apple Health for Adults as of December 1, 2019.

Jazzlyn will receive a letter explaining her health care options to get coverage under her own name.

Scenarios

Scenario Two

Mom is a single tax filer with \$1000/month income.

She claims her 14 year old daughter Janelle and 20 year old daughter Courtney as her tax dependents. However, they both live with grandma.

Scenarios

Scenario Two Outcome

Mom is approved Apple Health for Adults. The FPL is 56%.

Janelle is approved Apple Health for Kids and Courtney is approved Apple Health for Adults.

Even though they live with another relative, mom is eligible to apply for them since they are her tax dependents.

Grandma has the option to apply for Janelle since they live together.

Courtney has the option to apply on her own and will receive a letter explaining her health care options to get coverage under her own name.

Scenarios

Scenario Three

Mom is a single tax filer with \$1500/month income. She claims her 29 year old son Rocco as her tax dependent.

Rocco is lawfully present but under the 5-year bar. He is unable to work after being hospitalized following a car accident.

Mom submits an application seeking coverage only for Rocco.

Scenarios

Scenario Three Outcome

Rocco receives a pending decision for Apple Health Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) coverage.

Once medical verification is provided, Rocco receives AEM to cover the hospitalization.

If he is unable to work, he can apply for Medical Care Services (MCS) through the Department of Social and Health Services. He might also qualify for a qualified health plan.

Scenarios

Scenario Four

Dad is a single tax filer with \$3100/month income. He claims his 22 year old daughter Miranda as his tax dependent.

Miranda is pregnant and has no income.

Dad submits the application during open enrollment.

Scenarios

Scenario Four Outcome

Dad is eligible for a qualified health plan with tax credits.

Miranda is approved for Apple Health for Pregnant Women.
The FPL is 174%.

Miranda will receive a letter explaining her health care options to get coverage under her own name.

Scenarios

Scenario Five

Mom and dad are married and they file their taxes together.
They are enrolled in a qualified health plan.

Their son JoJo turns 19 in March and is their tax dependent.
He is on Apple Health for Kids through March 31, 2020.

Their household's income is \$2800/month.

Scenarios

Scenario Five Outcome

On February 3, the system sends the application through auto-renewal.

JoJo is not auto-renewed since the household's FPL is 157%. Instead, the system sends the Washington Apple Health – Action Required letter.

On March 9, mom completes the renewal. Apple Health for JoJo ends March 31.

Mom completes the steps to add JoJo to their existing qualified health plan for coverage as of April 1.

Scenarios

Scenario Six

Aunt Jenny is a single tax filer. She has cared for her 20 year old niece Melly since birth and claims her as her tax dependent.

Aunt Jenny applies for coverage during open enrollment and reports her income at \$2500/month. Melly does not have any income.

Scenarios

Scenario Six Outcome

Aunt Jenny is not eligible for Apple Health for Adults because her income is over the limit. The FPL is 177%. She is eligible for a qualified health plan with tax credits.

Melly is eligible for Apple Health for Adults. Her income is zero and since she meets an exception to the tax dependent Medical Assistance Unit (MAU) rules, her aunt's income does not count towards her Apple Health eligibility.

Scenarios

Scenario Seven

Mom is a single tax filer and receives Apple Health for Adults.

Her son Jacob turns 19 in October and is on Apple Health for Kids through October 31, 2019.

Jacob is claimed as a tax dependent of someone outside the household (his dad).

Mom receives unemployment of \$250 a week.

Scenarios

Scenario Seven Outcome

On September 4, the system attempts to auto-renew the application for Jacob.

The income on the application is reasonably compatible with data sources. However, Jacob is not eligible for auto-renewal because he is not the tax dependent of the primary applicant.

He must apply on his own.

Scenarios

Scenario Eight

Dad is applying for himself and 21 year old son Donovan.

They do not file taxes and have no income.

Scenarios

Scenario Eight Outcome

Dad is approved Apple Health for Adults.

Donovan is denied Apple Health. He must apply on his own because, as an adult, he is not the spouse nor tax dependent of the applicant.

Scenarios

Scenario Nine

Dad is a single tax filer with \$1250/month income. He lives with his long-term girlfriend Lena who is the mother of his 19 year old son Lawrence.

Lena is a single tax filer and claims Lawrence as her tax dependent.

Dad applies for coverage for all 3.

Scenarios

Scenario Nine Outcome

Dad is approved Apple Health for Adults. The FPL is 120%.

Lena and Lawrence are denied coverage because, as adults, they are not the spouse or tax dependent of the primary applicant.

Lena and Lawrence need to submit their own application – either as a pair or separately.

Scenarios

Scenario Ten

Wendy is a tax dependent of her boyfriend Arby who files taxes.

Arby works for McDonald's and earns \$1800 a month.

Wendy applies for coverage for both of them.

Scenarios

Scenario Ten Outcome

Wendy is approved Washington Apple Health for Adults.

Since Arby is not the tax dependent or spouse of the primary applicant, he must apply on his own.

If Arby had submitted the application as the primary applicant, they would both be approved Apple Health.

Washington Healthplanfinder Plan Selection

Plan Selection

The following still applies to the Managed Care plan selection:

- ProviderOne determines the available plans and assigns the adult tax dependent to the same plan as other household members.
- Available plans are based on zip code/county of the primary applicant.
- If a tax dependent wants a different plan from the tax filer (primary applicant), the dependent needs to end coverage under the tax filer's application and apply on their own.

Resources

Resources

- **HCA Training & Education Resources**
<http://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/stakeholder-training-and-education>
- **HCA Apple Health Managed Care**
<https://www.hca.wa.gov/health-care-services-supports/apple-health-medicaid-coverage/apple-health-managed-care>
- **HCA Community-Based Specialists**
https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/community_based_staff_contact.pdf
- **HCA Area Representatives**
https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/free-or-low-cost/area_representatives.pdf