

# Federal Health Reform—What’s in it for Me?

## What’s in it for New York?

Broadly speaking, federal health reform will lower the cost of health insurance and make it easier to use. People who already have good insurance will be able to keep it. Most people who don’t have insurance will be able to get it—it is estimated that in New York alone 2 million people will newly gain coverage. And everyone who utilizes the health care system will benefit from improvements.

### The Basics:

The new health bill do several things that will affect all New Yorkers.

- **Require everyone to have health insurance.** Starting in 2014, everyone will be required to have health insurance (with some exceptions). People who go without insurance for more than 3 months will face a tax penalty.
- **Create a health insurance Exchange.** By 2014, New York will have a website and telephone hotline to help individuals and small businesses compare insurance prices and products and enroll in coverage. Only individuals, families, small businesses, and legal immigrants can use the Exchange.
- **Provide subsidies for low- and middle-income people.** People earning less than 400% of FPL who purchase insurance on the Exchange may be eligible for premium credits to cover part of the cost.
- **Insurance reforms.** Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny people coverage for pre-existing conditions or impose annual or lifetime benefits. Preventative care will no longer have co-pays, young people will get to stay on their parents’ plan until age 26, and the government will regulate how much of your premium will be spent on care, instead of profits.

## What’s in it for me?

The new health law will affect different people in different ways:

- **For people who have health insurance through their job:** If you like your insurance, you can keep it. If you don’t like it, you can buy different insurance on the new health insurance Exchange or elsewhere. If your job-based plan is too expensive, then the government may help you pay for new insurance on the Exchange.
- **For people who buy health insurance on their own, or who do not have insurance:** If you like your current insurance, then you can keep it. If you don’t like it, or if you don’t have any, you can buy different insurance on the new Exchange or elsewhere. If you earn less than \$73,240 annually for a family of three (400% FPL) the government may help you pay for insurance on the Exchange.
- **For seniors who have Medicare:** You will no longer have to pay co-pays or deductibles for preventative care. Seniors who hit the “donut hole” will get a rebate of \$250 starting in 2010, and a 50% discount on brand name drugs in 2011. By 2011, there will only be a 25% co-pays on drugs. By 2020 the donut hole will be completely eliminated.
- **For small business owners:** If you have less than 25 employees, offer health insurance, and pay at least 50% of the cost, you may be eligible for tax credits of up to 35% of your share of the cost. Non-profits are eligible for tax credits too.



**Small business owners may be eligible for tax credits of up to 35% of the cost of providing health insurance.**

**Be part of the solution!**

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