

MEMORANDUM

To: New Employees of South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC)
From: Human Resources Office
Re: New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options

As a new employee, SCFC is required by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to provide the attached New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options Notice to you, regardless of whether you are currently eligible for health insurance. It details the insurance options available through the new federal Health Insurance Marketplace, an online marketplace offering individual health insurance options.

Beginning January 1, 2014, there are tax implications for many individuals not maintaining health coverage. Information regarding this is detailed at: www.healthcare.gov (click on: “Individuals & Families”/”Most Popular”/ “What if someone doesn’t have coverage?”) Please review this information carefully to better understand how the law may affect you in regards to health insurance coverage. Coverage may be maintained through an individual’s employer, their qualified family member’s employer, public programs such as Medicare or Medicaid, or an individual plan.

If you are not employed in an insurance benefits-eligible position (ie., temporary, grant positions not funding insurance, etc.) and you are not insured by health coverage elsewhere, you may want to consider your options for health coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace. If you have specific questions regarding the Health Insurance Marketplace you may call 1-800-318-2596, which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are insurance benefits-eligible and enroll in health insurance coverage with South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) , you do not need to take any other action in relation to this notice.

If you are in an insurance benefits-eligible position and are considering refusing coverage offered to you by SCFC, you may want to consider purchasing health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace if health coverage is not maintained elsewhere. However, in most cases, the Health Insurance Marketplace may not be an option if you are extended the employer health insurance coverage, unless the total portion of health premiums paid is greater than 9.5% of your household income. If you refuse coverage, you will not have the opportunity to enroll in employer-offered coverage again until a qualifying event occurs (you must notify the Human Resource Office and enroll within 31 days of the event) or during Open Enrollment which occurs from October 1st through October 31st of each year.

Again, information regarding the Health Insurance Marketplace may be assessed at: www.healthcare.gov or by calling 1-800-318-2596, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Employee’s Name (Printed & Signed)

Date

NEW HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE COVERAGE OPTIONS

PART A

When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way to buy health insurance: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. The next open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the marketplace will be from November 15, 2016, to February 15, 2017 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2017. However, you can buy a health plan on the marketplace outside of open enrollment if you qualify for a special enrollment period. See www.HealthCare.gov for more details on special enrollment periods.

Can I save money on my health insurance premiums in the marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does employer health coverage affect eligibility for premium savings through the marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.¹

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage- is often excluded from income for federal and state income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

How can I get more information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact Allison Talbot at (803) 896-7059.

The marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the marketplace and its cost. Please visit www.HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a health insurance marketplace in your area.

¹ An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.

HEALTH COVERAGE INFORMATION FOR MARKETPLACE APPLICATION

PART B

If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace, you will be asked to provide the information below. This information is numbered to correspond to the marketplace application.

3. Employer Name South Carolina Forestry Commission		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 77- 0697491	
5. Employer Address P.O. Box 21707		6. Employer Phone Number (803) 896-8800	
7. City Columbia	8. State SC	9. ZIP Code 29221	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Allison Talbot			
11. Phone Number (if different from above)		12. Email address atalbot@scfc.gov	

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

- All employees.
- Some employees. An eligible employee is:

Employed by the state, a higher education institution, a public school district or a participating local subdivision; works in a permanent, full-time position; and receives compensation from the state, a higher education institution, a public school district or a participating local subdivision. Eligible employees also include clerical and administrative employees of the S.C. General Assembly and judges in the state courts; General Assembly members; elected members of the councils of participating counties or municipalities who also participate in PEBA Retirement Benefits; and permanent, part-time teachers, who are considered employees for insurance purposes.

- With respect to dependents:

- We do offer coverage. An eligible dependent is:

A lawful spouse or a former spouse who is required to be covered by a divorce decree; and a child younger than 26 who is the subscriber's natural child, adopted child, stepchild, foster child, a child for whom the subscriber has legal custody or a child the subscriber is required to cover due to a court order.

- We do not offer coverage.

- If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

** Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from

week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the marketplace, www.HealthCare.gov will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit www.HealthCare.gov to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

COMPLETE INFO BELOW IF EMPLOYEE REQUESTS IT FOR EXCHANGE APPLICATION:

The information below corresponds to the Marketplace Employer Coverage Tool. Completing this section is optional for employers, but will help ensure employees understand their coverage choices.

13. Is the employee currently eligible for coverage offered by this employer, or will the employee be eligible in the next 3 months?

Yes (Continue) *(Check box if appropriate)*

13a. If the employee is not eligible today, including as a result of a waiting or probationary period, when is the employee eligible for coverage? *(Complete date)* (mm/dd/yyyy) (Continue)

No (STOP and return this form to employee) *(Check box if appropriate)*

14. Does the employer offer a health plan that meets the minimum value standard²?

Yes (Go to question 15) No (STOP and return this form to employee)

15. For the lowest-cost plan that meets the minimum value standard¹ offered only to the employee (don't include family plans): If the employer has wellness programs, provide the premium that the employee would pay if he/she received the maximum discount for any tobacco cessation programs, and didn't receive any other discounts based on wellness programs.

a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan \$(*List Savings Plan premium without the Tobacco User Surcharge*)

b. How often? Weekly Every 2 weeks Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Yearly
(Check one box)

If the plan year will end soon and you know that the health plans offered will change, go to question 16. If you don't know, STOP and return form to employee.

16. What change will the employer make for the new plan year?

Employer won't offer health coverage

Employer will start offering health coverage to employees or change the premium for the lowest-cost plan available only to the employee that meets the minimum value standard.¹ (Premium should reflect the discount for wellness programs. See question 15.)

a. How much would the employee have to pay in premiums for this plan \$(*Complete amount*)

b. How often? Weekly Every 2 weeks Twice a month Monthly Quarterly Yearly
(Check one box)

Date of change (mm/dd/yyyy): *(Complete date)*

² An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs (Section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)