

Can I Really Get a \$0 Premium Marketplace Plan?

By Beth Boone

The Health Insurance Marketplace is the gateway to buying good health insurance for individuals and families.

The Marketplace decides how much discount each applicant will receive on their health insurance. This is based on zip code, income, family size, age, and tobacco use.

Once the amount of discount is decided, you will choose your private health insurance plan based on benefits and total cost.

Important Questions to Ask

1. Does anyone have insurance through their work? If yes, then there are questions to consider. Is it creditable? Does the plan meet the criteria for a Qualified Health Plan? Is it affordable? Does the plan meet the affordability guidelines set by the Marketplace?
2. Do adults or children qualify for Medicaid or CHIP? Depending on your family income, when applying for Marketplace insurance, you may be referred to Medicaid or CHIP if it seems you might qualify.
3. What income counts towards household income? The household is those listed on the same tax return.

But Can I Really Pay \$0 for My Monthly Premium?

The short answer is “YES,” you may be able to get a \$0 premium plan.

Let’s look at an example for a family in Andrews, TX:

(Please note that every family is different and may not qualify for \$0 premium plans.)

Family Size	4
Household Income	\$70,000
Ages	35, 32, 10, 8
Tobacco Use	None

Premium Estimate	\$1150
Estimated Subsidy	\$1200
Total Premium	\$0

Yes, some individuals and families may qualify for a \$0 premium health insurance plan. Talk to a health insurance agent to see if you qualify.

This article is for information only and should not be considered a recommendation. Talk with a licensed Health Insurance Professional about your specific circumstances. For more information you can go to The Texas Department of Insurance.