



Community ACCESS Line of the Lakeshore

TIME-SENSITIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Dial 2-1-1 for More Information

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

Free tax preparation and assistance is available through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), State of Michigan and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and other community programs. These services can assist with federal, state, and city income taxes; Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); Child Tax Credit; Home Heating Credit; Homestead Property Tax Credit; pension and retirement-related questions unique to seniors and may be available in-person, drop-off service, or on-line.

Tax preparation services are available mid-January through mid-April to individuals who qualify. Below is a summary of a few programs, but **please dial 2-1-1 Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. after January 19th, 2022** to learn more about these programs and others available to you.

VITA and TCE

BASIC ELIGIBILITY FOR VITA:

- Individuals or households that generally make \$60,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities
- Limited English speaking taxpayers

The VITA program has operated for over 50 years helping people with tax preparation. Operated by the IRS partners and staffed by IRS certified-volunteers.

TCE program offers individuals 60 years or older, specializing in questions about pension and retirement-related issues.

VITA/TCE services are not only free, they are also a reliable and trusted source for preparing tax returns. All VITA/TCE volunteers who prepare returns must take and pass tax law training that meets or exceeds IRS standards. This training includes maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all taxpayer information. In addition to requiring volunteers to certify their knowledge of the tax laws, the IRS requires a quality review check for every return prepared at a VITA/TCE site prior to filing.

AARP Tax-Aide Program

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers offer free tax assistance for low and middle income households. Assistance to people ages 60+ is given priority.

When using a FREE tax preparation service, please have the following available:

- Photo ID for Caller (and/or spouse, if filing jointly)
- If married filing jointly, both spouses must attend appointment
- Social security cards for every member of the family (if a card is lost, taxpayer must contact the social security administration to replace card prior to having taxes prepared)
- W-2s and/or 1099's from ALL jobs worked in 2021
- A check from the taxpayer's checking account or a savings account number for direct deposit
- Interest statements from financial institutions (if applicable)
- All 1095 forms – only if you received insurance through a federal or state marketplace or you received a 1095-A
- Tuition and student loan information (if applicable)
- Documentation from daycare provider, if taxpayer paid for child care in 2021
- Any other income information or IRS notices received
- Health Insurance Statements
- Copy of last years tax return
- Notice 6419 if you received advanced notice of child tax credit
- DTE Energy bill paid in 2021 (11/1/2020 - 10/31/2021)
- If renting: monthly rent amount and landlord name and address
- If homeowner: 2021 Summer and Winter Property Tax bills or assessor documents





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HEALTHCARE INSURANCE MARKETPLACE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT (Affordable Care Act - Healthcare.gov)

A Special Enrollment Period is going on now and may let you enroll in health coverage outside of the annual Open Enrollment Period, or during Open Enrollment for an earlier coverage start date. You may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period through the Health Insurance Marketplace in these situations:

Situation	Details
1. Loss of qualifying health coverage	<p>You (or anyone in your household) lost qualifying health coverage (or “minimum essential coverage”). Some examples of qualifying coverage include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coverage through a job, or through another person’s job. This also applies if you’re now eligible for help paying for Marketplace coverage because your employer stopped offering coverage or the coverage is no longer considered qualifying coverage, and you’re allowed to end employer coverage.▪ Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage (including pregnancy-related coverage and medically needy coverage).▪ Medicare.▪ Individual health coverage that ended after a decrease in household income that makes someone newly eligible for savings on a Marketplace plan.▪ Individual or group health plan coverage that ends during the year.▪ Coverage under your parent’s health plan (if you’re on it). If you turn 26 and lose coverage, you can qualify for this Special Enrollment Period.
2. Change in household size	<p>You (or anyone in your household):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Got married▪ Had a baby, adopted a child, or placed a child for foster care▪ Gained or became a dependent due to a child support or other court order <p>Note: If you gained or became a dependent due to marriage, one spouse must have also had qualifying health coverage for one or more days in the 60 days prior to the marriage. This doesn’t apply if the spouse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Was living in a foreign country or a U.S. territory for one or more days in the 60 days prior to the marriage.▪ Is a member of a federally recognized tribe or a shareholder in an Alaska Native Corporation.▪ Lived for one or more days during the 60 days before their move or during their most recent enrollment period in a service area where they couldn’t get qualifying health coverage through the Marketplace.
3. Change in primary place of living	<p>You (or anyone in your household) had a change in your primary place of living and gain access to new Marketplace health plans. Household moves that qualify you for a Special Enrollment Period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Moving to a new home in a new ZIP code or county▪ Moving to the U.S. from a foreign country or U.S. territory▪ Moving to or from the place you attend school▪ Moving to or from the place of your seasonal employment▪ Moving to or from a shelter or other transitional housing <p>Note: You qualify only if you had qualifying health coverage for one or more days in the 60 days prior to your move. This doesn’t apply if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ You were living in a foreign country or a U.S. territory for one or more days in the 60 days prior to the move.▪ You’re a member of a federally recognized tribe or a shareholder in an Alaska Native Corporation.▪ You lived for one or more days during the 60 days before your move or during your most recent enrollment period in a service area where you couldn’t get qualifying health coverage through the Marketplace. <p>Moving only for medical treatment or staying somewhere for vacation doesn’t qualify you for a Special Enrollment Period.</p>



HEALTHCARE INSURANCE MARKETPLACE SPECIAL ENROLLMENT *(continued)*

Situation	Details
4. Change in eligibility for Marketplace coverage or help paying for coverage	<p>You (or anyone in your household):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Are enrolled in Marketplace coverage and report a change that makes you:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Newly eligible for help paying for coverage.Newly ineligible for help paying for coverage.Eligible for a different amount of help paying for out-of-pocket costs, like co-payments.Become newly eligible for Marketplace coverage because you've become a citizen, national, or lawfully present individual.Become newly eligible for Marketplace coverage after being released from incarceration (detention, jail, or prison).Gain or maintain status as a member of a federally recognized tribe or a Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation shareholder (a status that lets you change plans once per month, and lets your dependents enroll in or change plans with you).Become newly eligible for help paying for Marketplace coverage because you moved to a different state and/or experience a change in income and you were previously both of these:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ineligible for Medicaid coverage because you lived in a state that hadn't expanded Medicaid.Ineligible for help paying for coverage because your household income was below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
5. Enrollment or plan error	<p>You (or anyone in your household):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Weren't enrolled in a plan or were enrolled in the wrong plan because of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Misinformation, misrepresentation, misconduct, or inaction of someone working in an official capacity to help you enroll (like an insurance company, Navigator, certified application counselor, agent or broker).A technical error or other Marketplace-related enrollment delay.Wrong plan data (like benefit or cost-sharing information) displayed on HealthCare.gov at the time that you chose your health plan.Can prove your Marketplace plan violated a material provision of its contract.
6. Other situations	<p>You (or anyone in your household):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applied through the Marketplace for Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage during Open Enrollment, or after a qualifying event, and your state Medicaid or CHIP agency determined you (or anyone in your household) weren't eligible after Open Enrollment ended, or more than 60 days had passed since your qualifying event.Are a victim of domestic abuse or spousal abandonment and want to enroll yourself and any dependents in a health plan separate from your abuser or abandoner.Submitted documents requested by the Marketplace to confirm your eligibility, but your coverage had already ended.Are under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), submitted documents to prove that you have an eligible immigration status, and didn't enroll in coverage while you waited for your documents to be reviewed.Are an AmeriCorps service member starting or ending AmeriCorps service.Can show you had an exceptional circumstance that kept you from enrolling in coverage, like being incapacitated, being a victim of a natural disaster, or being impacted by another type of national or local emergency or disaster during an Open Enrollment Period or another Special Enrollment Period qualifying event.Have newly-gained access to an individual coverage Health Reimbursement Account (HRA), or are being provided a Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangement (QSEHRA).

