



10 KEY FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE NMHIX

The New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange (NMHIX) has launched its “BeWellNM” campaign to let all New Mexicans know about their health care coverage options on the NMHIX. Outlined below are some key facts for everyone to know as they start to explore their options at www.BeWellNM.com

1. What Is the NMHIX? It’s a new way to find health care coverage that makes it easy for individuals and small businesses to compare health plans, including coverage, premiums, and out-of-pocket costs. You can also find out if you qualify for assistance to help pay the cost of coverage.

2. Can Anyone Use the NMHIX? Any New Mexican who is a lawfully present (legal resident) can use the NMHIX, but only certain people can get subsidies, which are tax credits that can help pay for the premiums. You can’t be denied coverage or charged higher premiums because of pre-existing health conditions. However, premiums can vary based on four characteristics: age, tobacco use, geographic area and family size—though there are limits. The NMHIX will appeal mostly to New Mexicans who are uninsured now or who are seeking a better deal on the individual insurance market — not to most of the people who get insurance on the job.

3. When Can I Enroll and When Does Coverage Start? Individuals can enroll in plans through the NMHIX in an “open enrollment” period from Oct. 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 with coverage starting as soon as Jan. 1, 2014. Small businesses can enroll anytime starting October 1. The NMHIX was created by state law in 2013 to help people get affordable health care coverage.

4. How Does This Affect Seniors on Medicare? The NMHIX does not impact seniors on Medicare. Seniors can keep their same Medicare coverage and they do NOT have to do anything about the NMHIX.

5. What Do the Health Plans Cover? The NMHIX requires that plans cover a standard range of “Essential Health Benefits.” These include doctor visits, prescription drugs, outpatient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse services, behavioral health treatment, prescription drugs, rehabilitation, laboratory services, preventive services, chronic disease management and pediatric services, including oral and vision care for children.

6. How Many Plans Are There? Many different types of plans will be offered, and costs will vary. The plans are referred to as “Qualified Health Plans” or QHPs. Four categories of plans will be offered -- 1) bronze; 2) silver, 3) gold and 4) platinum. The more “precious” metals (higher numbers) offer lower out-of-pocket costs but are more expensive (e.g. platinum has less out-of-pocket costs and higher premiums than bronze). All QHPs offer the same essential health benefits but the “metal level” determines premiums, co-payments, co-insurance, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs. For individuals the plan provider choices are Blue Cross Blue Shield, Lovelace, Molina, New Mexico Health Connections, and Presbyterian. For small businesses the choices are Blue Cross Blue Shield, Lovelace, New Mexico Health Connections, and Presbyterian. There is also a catastrophic plan available for people younger than 30.

7. How Do the Subsidies Work? Subsidies will help many New Mexicans who seek insurance through the NMHIX. People can get help paying for insurance on the NMHIX if they earn up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$94,000 for a family of four. But if you can already get “affordable” insurance through an employer, you are not eligible for this assistance. If you make below 138 percent of the federal poverty level you may be eligible for Medicaid expansion coverage.

Here is an example of how this works:

		Eligible for NMHIX Financial Assistance EXAMPLES OF INCOME LEVELS/PREMIUMS*							FULL PAY ON PREMIUMS
No. in Family	MEDICAID 0-138% Federal Poverty Level**	138%	150%	200%	250%	300%	350%	400%	
1		\$ 15,856	\$ 17,235	\$ 22,980	\$ 28,725	\$ 34,470	\$ 40,215	\$ 45,960	
2		\$ 21,404	\$ 23,265	\$ 31,020	\$ 38,775	\$ 46,530	\$ 54,285	\$ 62,040	
3		\$ 26,951	\$ 29,295	\$ 39,060	\$ 48,825	\$ 58,590	\$ 68,355	\$ 78,120	
4		\$ 32,499	\$ 35,325	\$ 47,100	\$ 58,875	\$ 70,650	\$ 82,425	\$ 94,200	
5		\$ 38,047	\$ 41,355	\$ 55,140	\$ 68,925	\$ 82,710	\$ 96,495	\$ 110,280	
6		\$ 43,594	\$ 47,385	\$ 63,180	\$ 78,975	\$ 94,770	\$ 110,565	\$ 126,360	
Maximum Annual Premium Payments									
No. in Family	MEDICAID 0-138% Federal Poverty Level	138%	150%	200%	250%	300%	350%	400%	FULL PAY ON PREMIUMS
1		\$ 522	\$ 689	\$ 1,448	\$ 2,312	\$ 3,275	\$ 3,820	\$ 4,366	
2		\$ 704	\$ 931	\$ 1,954	\$ 3,121	\$ 4,420	\$ 5,157	\$ 5,894	
3		\$ 887	\$ 1,172	\$ 2,461	\$ 3,930	\$ 5,566	\$ 6,494	\$ 7,421	
4		\$ 1,069	\$ 1,413	\$ 2,967	\$ 4,739	\$ 6,712	\$ 7,830	\$ 8,949	
5		\$ 1,252	\$ 1,654	\$ 3,474	\$ 5,548	\$ 7,857	\$ 9,167	\$ 10,477	
6		\$ 1,434	\$ 1,895	\$ 3,980	\$ 6,357	\$ 9,003	\$ 10,504	\$ 12,004	
Maximum % of Income		3.00%	4.00%	6.30%	8.05%	9.50%	9.50%	9.50%	
Maximum Monthly Premium Payments									
No. in Family	MEDICAID 0-138% Federal Poverty Level	138%	150%	200%	250%	300%	350%	400%	FULL PAY ON PREMIUMS
1		\$ 43	\$ 57	\$ 121	\$ 193	\$ 273	\$ 318	\$ 364	
2		\$ 59	\$ 78	\$ 163	\$ 260	\$ 368	\$ 430	\$ 491	
3		\$ 74	\$ 98	\$ 205	\$ 328	\$ 464	\$ 541	\$ 618	
4		\$ 89	\$ 118	\$ 247	\$ 395	\$ 559	\$ 653	\$ 746	
5		\$ 104	\$ 138	\$ 289	\$ 462	\$ 655	\$ 764	\$ 873	
6		\$ 120	\$ 158	\$ 332	\$ 530	\$ 750	\$ 875	\$ 1,000	
Maximum % of Income		3.29%	4.00%	6.30%	8.05%	9.50%	9.50%	9.50%	

* note: These are illustrative examples--actual premiums and out of pocket costs will depend on many factors.

** there are higher income levels for some individuals on Medicaid, e.g. children, pregnant women, etc.

8. What if I Have Insurance Through My Job or I'm on Medicaid?

If you have affordable insurance through an employer, or if you already have coverage through Medicaid, you won't be eligible for or affected by the NMHIX.

9. How Do I Sign Up?

You can sign up in a number of easy ways. You can use a computer and go on the Internet, call, or sign up by mail or in person with a Health Care Guide or an insurance agent/broker. A Health Care Guide is a trained specialist to help you in person with the enrollment process. Starting October 1, 2023, the NMHIX Call Center will be available 24/7 to help you find a Health Care Guide or agent/broker. You'll also be able to go to the www.BeWellNM.com website to type in your zipcode and find a Health Care Guide or agent/broker near you. The Health Care Guides will be located at clinics and hospitals and other nonprofit organization. You can also go to the federal website www.Healthcare.gov or call the federal call center at 1-800-318-2596 for more information.

10. What Information Do I Need to Have to Sign Up?

Before starting the enrollment process, be sure to have the Social Security numbers of everyone in your family that you're looking to insure; employment and income information, such as pay stubs, a tax return or W-2 forms; and policy numbers if you currently have any health insurance. Eligibility for tax credits and subsidies is based on modified adjusted gross income.

The NMHIX hopes all New Mexicans will check out www.BeWellNM.com and explore their new affordable health care coverage options.

Be Well!