American Rescue Plan Implementation & COVID-19 Enrollment Period

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WHAT: Savings from the American Rescue Plan are now available for

customers to take advantage of during the COVID-19 Enrollment Period

WHO: All Pennsylvanians including Current Pennie customers

WHEN: February 15 – August 15, 2021

HOW: pennie.com & 1-844-844-8040

DETAILS:

- Pennie understands that everyone has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and has created its own COVID-19 Enrollment Period. The COVID-19 Enrollment Period is for all Pennsylvanians who either wish to enroll in coverage through Pennie or current Pennie customers who wish to update their plans.
- The American Rescue Plan, also known as the COVID-19 relief package, that was recently signed into law, includes provisions that will significantly increase access to coverage through the Affordable Care Act.
- These changes will result in significant savings for Pennsylvanians seeking individual market coverage for 2021 and 2022. Now, no customer will pay more than 8.5 percent of their income to enroll in coverage through Pennie if they otherwise qualify.
- Anyone who is uninsured or enrolled in an off-exchange plan, can visit pennie.com and enroll in affordable coverage before the end of the COVID-19 Enrollment Period on August 15.
- Although this enrollment period does apply to current customers, they are not obligated to change their plans. Most current customers will have their eligibility for financial assistance automatically re-run and their accounts updated. If a customer needs to update their application, or provide permission to run eligibility, the customer will be notified by Pennie.

- If current customers wish to shop and change plans based on savings or needs, they are free to do so, but if they are satisfied with their current 2021 coverage, no action from them is needed. They will be reminded to keep making their premium payments and the savings will be adjusted automatically.
- Pennsylvania taxpayers and their spouses, receiving or simply eligible for, unemployment compensation in 2021 can receive the most financial assistance possible for their household through Pennie and in many cases, access to no-cost monthly premiums. This provision provides direct relief for those who have been unemployed this year due to the pandemic. Eligible Pennsylvanians can access this benefit by submitting an application through Pennie.
- Those who lost their jobs but want to remain on their employer health insurance plans through COBRA will pay no premiums for this coverage through September. Following September, Pennie strongly encourages those on COBRA to consider transitioning to affordable coverage available through Pennie. Pennie will be adding an option for those coming from COBRA as a qualifying life event to enroll in the Special Enrollment Period.

POLICY UPDATES:

- Individuals calling the Pennie Call Center between February 15 and August 15, 2021, will be informed of this opportunity by a customer service representative (CSR) and the CSR will help the customer identify the appropriate qualifying life event dropdown item to use (2021 COVID-19 Enrollment Period).
- Pennie will apply a first of the month effective date rule for this COVID-19
 Enrollment Period, so Pennsylvanians utilizing this opportunity do not have to wait up to 45 days between when they enroll in coverage and when it is effective.
- The latest effective date associated with this enrollment period will be October 1, 2021. Pennsylvanians will have between February 15, 2021 and August 15, 2021 to apply for coverage, and the regular 60-day SEP plan shopping window will be applied. However, anyone who selects this COVID-19 Enrollment Period must enroll in a plan on or before September 15, 2021.

- The American Rescue Plan savings have been implemented into the Pennie's online application and shopping system for customers to compare plans with the updated savings.
- Those who are eligible for unemployment compensation in 2021 will be able to notify Pennie in the application process (see screenshots on page 25). This will ensure they will receive the most savings possible for 2021.
- A Savings Calculator has been added to the Pennie platform so customers can figure out their new premiums. Note: The Savings Calculator does not take unemployment compensation into account.

POTENTIAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

COVID-19 Enrollment Period

Q: How do plans through Pennie protect customers from COVID-19?

A: All commercial, comprehensive health insurance available in the Commonwealth, including plans purchased through Pennie, cover: the COVID-19 test if patients are experiencing symptoms or have had an indication of exposure; treatment for the symptoms that develop due to COVID-19; and, the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine. Not to mention, all other routine check-ups, vaccinations, and preventive treatments.

Q: What is the last date to apply under Pennie's COVID 19 Enrollment Period?

A: August 15, 2021 is the final day customers can apply for Pennie coverage using the COVID-19 Enrollment Period. This enrollment period will be labeled in the dropdown as "2021 COVID Enrollment Period" and will be visible to customers from February 15 through August 15.

Q: What day will the COVID-19 Enrollment Period officially close in the system?

A: Customers using this enrollment period will either have 60 days to enroll in a plan after submitting their application, or will have through September 15, 2021 to enroll, whichever comes first.

- Q: What effective date will customer receive under the COVID-19 Enrollment Period?
- A: First of the following month effective date, regardless of when they apply. For example: April 15 enrollment = May 1 effective date; April 30 enrollment = May 1 effective date; May 1 enrollment = June 1 effective date. Pennie is offering prospective coverage only; no retroactive effective dates will be applied.
- Q: Can a customer who has already applied and enrolled switch plans? If they switch plans, will their deductible and other cost sharing restart?
- A: Yes, current enrollees will be allowed to switch plans using the same rules as new applicants. Regular rules for customers switching plans mid-year will still apply accumulators and cost sharing will restart, and new binder payments may be required.

American Rescue Plan Questions (General)

Q: How does the American Rescue Plan impact how much I will spend on health insurance?

A: The American Rescue Plan lowers health insurance premiums on Pennie. If you were previously eligible for financial assistance, like advance premium tax credits (APTC), to lower the cost of health coverage, you will be eligible for additional financial assistance to further reduce the cost of coverage. If you previously did not qualify for financial assistance because your income was too high, you may now qualify.

Note: Other eligibility criteria, like access to job-based coverage (ESI) that meets affordability standards, have not changed. Those with an offer of ESI that meet this criterion will continue to be ineligible for financial assistance through Pennie.

To find out how much you could qualify to save because of the passing of the American Rescue Plan check out the Savings calculator at American Rescue Plan Savings Calculator (pennie.com)

Q: What if my income changes while the American Rescue Plan is in effect?

A: Your monthly premium is based on your income. If your income goes down, you may qualify for lower monthly premiums. If your income goes up, your monthly premium may go up. You will not pay more than 8.5% of your annual income on health insurance premiums.

See:

What should I do if I experience a change in income or another change in circumstance during the year? – pennie help

Q: When will I see the American Rescue Plan changes in my account?

A: Pennie is working diligently to ensure that Pennsylvanians have access to all of the financial assistance they are eligible for as soon as possible. Please continue to check back into your account on pennie.com over the next several weeks and months to see exactly what you are eligible for.

Hang tight, Pennie will be sure to let you know when these changes will be available in your account and what steps you need to take to receive them, if any. If you edit or update your application and resubmit, you will see your updated eligibility in your account.

Q: My tax credits have increased due to the American Rescue Plan, can I change health insurance plans?

A: YES, you can easily change your Pennie plan through your pennie.com account. Simply log in to your account and look for the new COVID-19 Enrollment Period banner on your account dashboard.

Also See:

Changing Plans under the COVID-19 Enrollment Period

Q: I started a new application but never completed it, can I still complete my application to see if I qualify for tax credits under the American Rescue Plan?

A: YES, Pennie customers have through August 15th under the Pennie COVID-19 Enrollment Period to complete their applications for coverage. You can easily login into your Pennie account and click "my application" to complete your application today and get the coverage you need. To learn more about the Pennie COVID-19 Enrollment Period and other information on Pennie and COVID-19 visit our COVID-19 information page.

Q: I did not think I qualified for financial assistance before – but think I might qualify under the American Rescue Plan Act, how do I check?

A: Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, many Pennsylvanians are newly eligible for financial assistance or may see an increase in the amount of financial assistance, like advance premium tax credits (APTC), they can receive.

These savings could significantly lower your monthly premiums. Even if you were previously ineligible for financial assistance through Pennie, you may be able to save under the American Rescue Plan. The easiest way to determine eligibility is by applying using Pennie's online application. Pennie makes getting assistance and coverage easy. Just click the "Get covered" button at the top of the page and complete your application today.

Also See:

<u>Updating application for customer who previously indicated they did not want Pennie</u> to determine their eligibility for financial assistance.

Q: I did not apply for coverage during Pennie's initial open enrollment period but want to see if I'm eligible for financial assistance under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Can I still apply for coverage through Pennie and get financial assistance?

A: YES, Due to the overwhelming impact of COVID-19, Pennie has made enrollment possible for all eligible Pennsylvanians. From February 15 through August 15, if you are uninsured or do not have health insurance through your employer, you can enroll in coverage through Pennie. Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, many

Pennsylvanians are newly eligible for financial assistance or may see an increase in the amount of financial assistance, like advance premium tax credits (APTC), for which they are eligible. You too might qualify for financial assistance. Simply click here to get the process started.

Also See:

Applying for coverage using the COVID-19 Enrollment Period?

Q: I am in the U.S. on a Visa and don't qualify for Medicaid coverage because of my visa status. Do I qualify for coverage through Pennie under the American Rescue Plan?

A: Yes, eligibility for coverage through Pennie has not changed. If you have a <u>lawfully present status</u>, including a non-immigrant visa, you can enroll! Depending on your income, you could experience significant savings under the American Rescue Plan. The American Rescue Plan includes visa holders who don't qualify for Medicaid coverage.

Also See:

Applying for coverage using the COVID-19 Enrollment Period?

Q: Does eligibility for unemployment insurance (unemployment compensation) under the American Rescue Plan impact eligibility for Medical Assistance or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)?

A: No. There is nothing in the American Rescue Plan that changes eligibility for other programs including Medicare, Medical Assistance (or Medicaid), or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). This provision impacts eligibility for advance premium tax credits (APTC) and cost sharing reductions (CSR) only. Those currently eligible for Medicaid/CHIP will remain in those programs. Those who are not, including dependent children, will not gain eligibility for these programs as a result of the American Rescue Plan.

Q: Will the American Rescue Plan affect everyone the same way?

A: No. Not everyone will qualify for the same amount of advance premium tax credits (APTC) to lower the cost of coverage, although most people will experience savings. The amount of financial assistance is determined by the cost of the second lowest cost silver plan (or benchmark plan) in their area, their age, the number of people in their household, as well as their income.

Unemployment (ARP)

Q: How do I know if I should self-attest to being eligible for unemployment insurance (or unemployment compensation) in my Pennie application?

A: Under the American Rescue Plan, a Pennsylvania taxpayer and/or their spouse (if married, filing jointly) can qualify for enhanced financial assistance, including advance premium tax credits (APTC) and cost sharing reductions (CSR) through Pennie if they are eligible to receive unemployment insurance for at least one week in 2021. These individuals should self-attest to unemployment insurance eligibility in their Pennie application.

Please note: A household where only the dependent child is eligible for unemployment insurance, should not self-attest to eligibility for unemployment insurance, as this does not qualify the household the unemployment insurance benefit under the American Rescue Plan.

Also See:

<u>Updating Unemployment Status</u>

Q: What documents do I need to submit to prove eligibility for unemployment insurance (otherwise known as unemployment compensation) to qualify for enhanced financial assistance under the American Rescue Plan (ARP)?

A: If a Pennsylvania taxpayer and/or their spouse (if married, filing jointly) is eligible for unemployment insurance for at least one week in 2021, they can qualify for enhanced financial assistance, including advance premium tax credits (APTC) and cost sharing reductions (CSR) under ARP. If eligible, Pennie enrollees must self-attest

that they are eligible for unemployment insurance when they apply for coverage through Pennie to receive additional financial assistance under the American Rescue Plan. However, it is recommended that you hold on to any documentation provided to you by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry that indicates your eligibility (for example: an "eligibility determination notice" or any payments received) in the event you are asked for these documents when you file your 2021 taxes.

Q: If my spouse is eligible for Unemployment Insurance, but I am not, are we both eligible to receive the enhanced financial assistance provided through the American Rescue Plan?

A: Yes, if you or your spouse (as included on your Pennie application) is eligible for unemployment insurance, (commonly referred to as unemployment compensation in Pennsylvania) the entire household is eligible to receive enhanced financial assistance under the American Rescue Plan. This includes the maximum level of advance premium tax credits (APTC) and cost sharing reductions (CSR).

Also See:

Who do I include in my household?

<u>Updating Unemployment Status</u>

Q: My income is over 400% of the federal poverty level, but I am eligible to receive unemployment insurance this year. Should I indicate that on my Pennie application?

A: Yes, if you or your spouse has been approved to receive unemployment insurance in 2021, you qualify for enhanced advance premium tax credits (APTC) and cost sharing reductions (CSR) to lower the cost of health coverage and care through Pennie.

Note: Other eligibility criteria, like access to job-based coverage (ESI) that meets affordability standards, have not changed. Those with an offer of ESI that meet this criteria will continue to be ineligible for financial assistance through Pennie.

To learn more about the family glitch you can also see: What is the 'family glitch' and how does it impact my family's eligibility for financial assistance to enroll in coverage through Pennie?

Also See:

<u>Updating Unemployment Status</u>

Q: Due to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) changes and no longer having to claim unemployment income do I need to report that I am receiving unemployment income to Pennie?

A: Yes, unemployment compensation is taxable and must be reported to Pennie in 2021, if you received unemployment income at any point during the year. Nontaxable unemployment was only applicable to tax year 2020.

Premiums (ARP)

Q: How long will my premiums remain lower due to the American Rescue Plan?

A: The reduced premiums under the American Rescue Plan are for all of 2021 and all of 2022 unless Congress extends or makes them permanent. You are eligible for the benefits under this law from the date in which your coverage through Pennie began, so enroll today if you haven't already!

NOTE: Pennie has added your eligible subsidies from the beginning part of the year to your subsidies for the remainder of the year. Because of this, there may be a difference in subsidies between December 2021 and January 2022. If this applies to you, you may see a likely increase from your December 2021 premium to your January 2022 premium. Please check back at renewal time to review any changes going into 2022.

Q: Do I have to enroll in a specific plan to get lower premiums under the American Rescue Plan?

A: Nope! You can enroll in any plan – bronze, silver, gold, or platinum – and apply the amount of advance premium tax credits (APTC) you qualify for to the plan of your choice. The American Rescue Plan calculates the amount of the reduction using the

cost of the second lowest-cost silver plan, your income, and your age to determine how much APTC you qualify for. Please note, if you enroll in a different plan from the benchmark plan in your area, you may see a different premium amount.

Q: I qualify for monthly premium reductions, but I chose to pay my full monthly premium instead. Can I claim the amount of reduced premiums during tax time when I file my taxes?

A: Yes, when you file your 2021 taxes – tax credits that you did not receive throughout the year will be paid back to you as a refund. If you later decide you want to take a portion of your premium tax credits in advance simply follow these steps within your Pennie account –

Navigate to 'My Applications' in your Account Dashboard

Select the 'Plan Summary' button

Select the 'Adjust APTC' button and proceed to choose the amount of tax credits you wish to apply to your premium each month.

Q: Do I still have to pay my premium if I know I will qualify for new benefits under ARP?

A: Yes, you should continue to pay your premiums as normal. New and current customers may not see the new benefits on their account dashboard right away and will have to pay their April premium based on their eligibility under the old rules.

Q: Are Pennie customers still responsible for taking "affordable coverage" when it comes to job-based coverage?

A: Yes, individuals (along with their spouse and dependents, if eligible) with an offer of job-based coverage that meets affordability standards will remain ineligible for financial assistance through Pennie. The American Rescue Plan does not change other eligibility provisions outside of household income under the ACA.

Q: My employer pays for my premiums through a QSEHRA, do I need to update my application to include income information to receive tax credits through the American Rescue Plan?

A: Yes, any Pennie customer currently enrolled through a non-financial assistance application must go into their Pennie account, apply for financial assistance and provide additional information, including household income, to receive advance premium tax credits (APTC) under the American Rescue Plan.

The same rules for individuals enrolled in Pennie coverage through a QSEHRA still apply under the new law. The monthly employer contribution plus any advance premium tax credits (APTC) received, can still be no greater than the amount the individual would have received without the monthly contribution through the QSEHRA alone.

CHIP (ARP)

Q: My child is enrolled in CHIP; can I remove them from CHIP and add them to my Pennie coverage?

A: If your child is enrolled in coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) at full-cost, then you can add them to your Pennie coverage during the COVID-19 Enrollment Period through August 15, 2021, or if you experience another applicable qualifying life event.

If your child is enrolled in no-cost, or low-cost CHIP, then they are not eligible to enroll in coverage through Pennie under federal law.

Reconciliation (ARP)

Q: Does the provision of the American Rescue Plan that forgives any excess advance premium tax credits (APTC) taken in 2020 apply to just those eligible to receive unemployment insurance or does it apply to all individuals who collected APTC?

A: The reconciliation of APTC for tax year 2020 applies to all individuals who collected APTC during 2020, not just those who received unemployment insurance. Under the American Rescue Plan, you will not need to payback any excess APTC received in 2020.

If you had health coverage and received APTC through healthcare.gov in 2020, you should have already received a 1095-A form from healthcare.gov with instructions on how to submit this form with your 2020 tax filing.

For more information on your 1095–A, please visit <u>Healthcare.gov</u>. Pennie does not have access to 1095–A forms for coverage purchased through Healthcare.gov during plan year 2020.

To learn more about the process for filing and reconciling any APTC you received last year, and how it relates to the American Rescue Plan, you can access the following resource from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) - <u>Premium Tax Credit: Claiming the Credit and Reconciling Advance Credit Payments</u>.

COBRA (ARP)

Q: Will those enrolled in COBRA coverage be eligible for a SEP to enroll in Pennie coverage when the ARP subsidies expire on Sept. 30?

A: Yes, individuals enrolled in COBRA coverage will be eligible for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to enroll in coverage through Pennie when the enhanced subsidies available under the American Rescue Plan expire on September 30, 2021.

Q: I was recently laid off; do I have to take COBRA since premiums under the American Rescue Plan are covered 100%? Or can I apply for Pennie coverage with financial assistance?

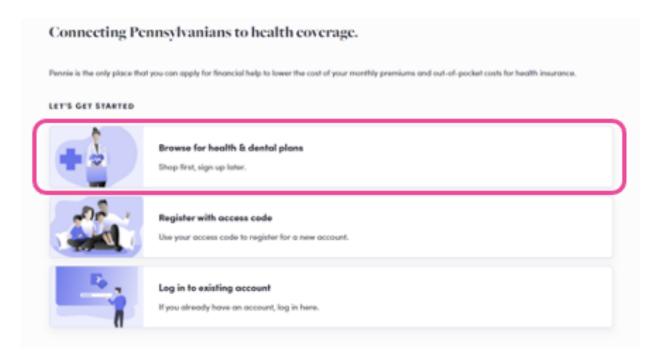
A: No, as COBRA coverage is not considered to be employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) for the purposes of marketplace eligibility, individuals eligible for COBRA coverage are not required to take it. An individual with an offer of COBRA coverage can still qualify financial assistance, including advance premium tax credits (APTC), to reduce the cost of health coverage through Pennie.

We encourage Pennsylvanians in job-transition to look at their coverage options through Pennie, see how much financial assistance they might qualify for to lower the cost of health coverage and care, and enroll if it makes sense for them.

PENNIE SYSTEM HOW TO GUIDES:

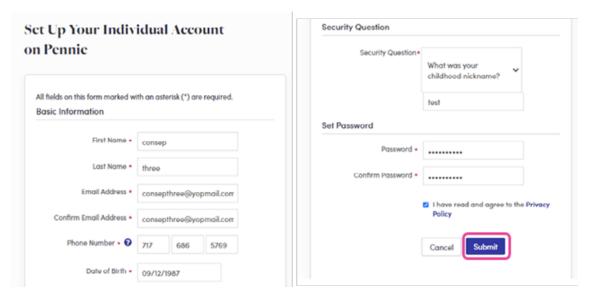
Applying for coverage using the COVID-19 Enrollment Period?

Step 1: Click "Browse for Health and Dental plans

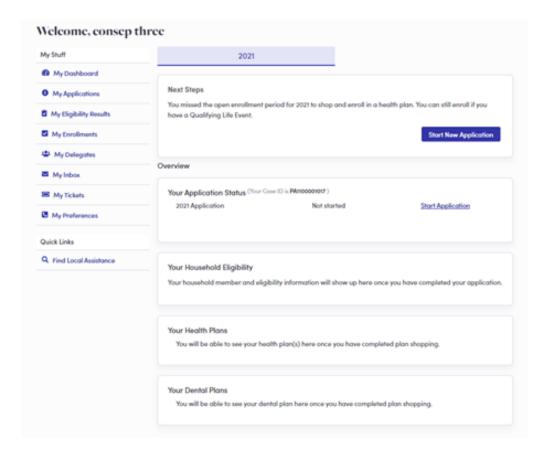


You can use the anonymous shopping tool to see how much financial assistance you might be eligible for, or you can select "Skip and Sign Up" to head straight to account set-up.

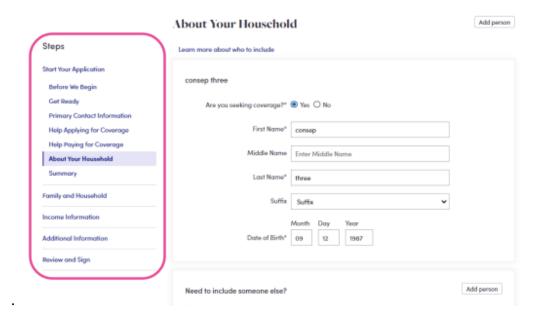
Step 2: Set up your new Pennie account



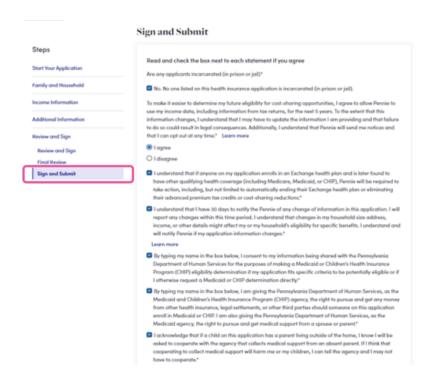
Step 3: Start your new application by clicking "Start New Application"



Step 4: Complete your application by filling out questions in each section

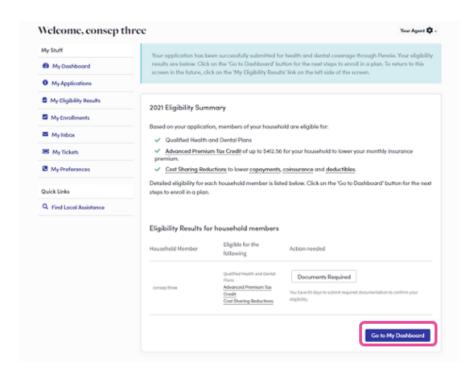


Step 5: Once you have completed all sections of your application you will need to sign and submit to start shopping for your new health plan.

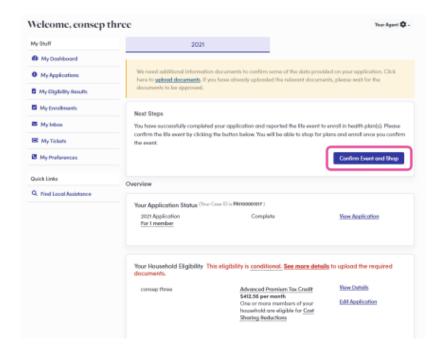




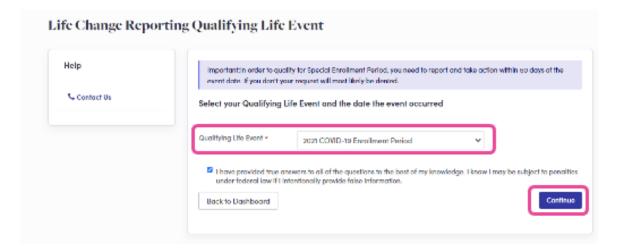
Step 6: Once you have completed your application you will be able to review your eligibility summary. After reviewing your eligibility, you can navigate back to your "Dashboard" to complete your plan selection.



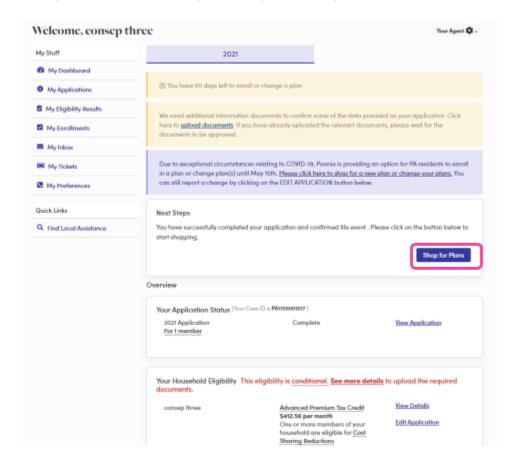
Step 7: To start plan shopping click "Confirm Event and Shop"



Step 8: From the drop down "Qualifying life event" select "2021 COVID-19 Enrollment Period, or you can select another event if one applies to you."



Step 9: You are now ready to shop for your new plan just click on "Shop for Plans" and select the plan that works for you and your family.

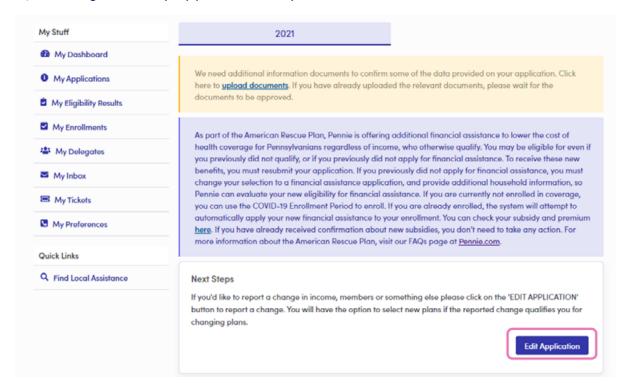


Adjusting how much APTC is applied to monthly premiums

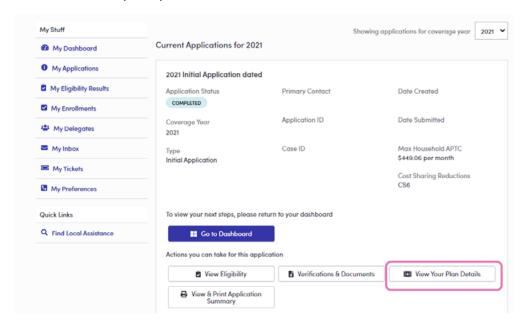
If you receive advance premium tax credits (APTC), the full amount you qualify for is now being applied to your new premium. If you want to use less of your APTC each month, you can log in to your Pennie account and follow the steps below:

Step 1: Login to your Pennie.com account

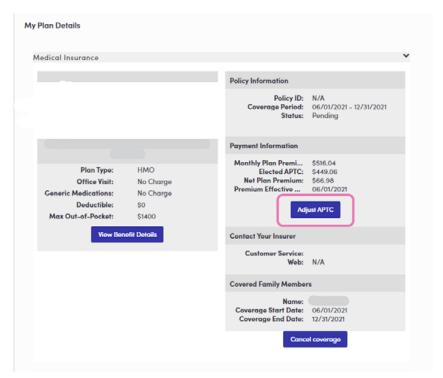
Step 2: Navigate to 'My Applications' in your Account Dashboard



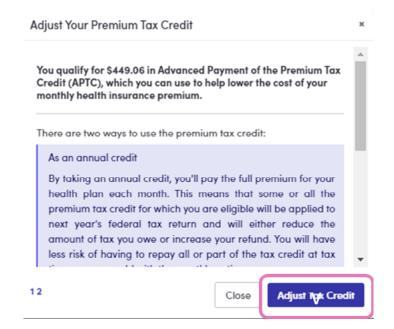
Step: 3 Select the 'View your plan details' button



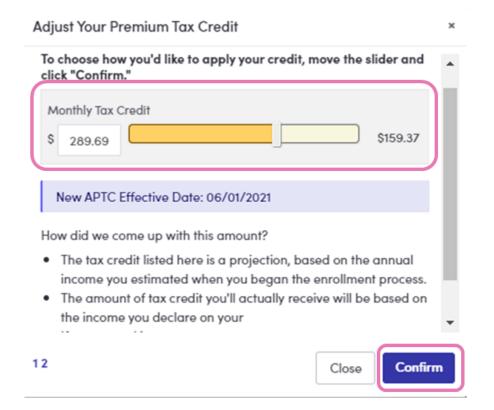
Step 4: Select the 'Adjust APTC' button and proceed to choose the amount of tax credits you wish to apply to your premium each month.



Step 4A: Click 'Adjust Tax Credit.'



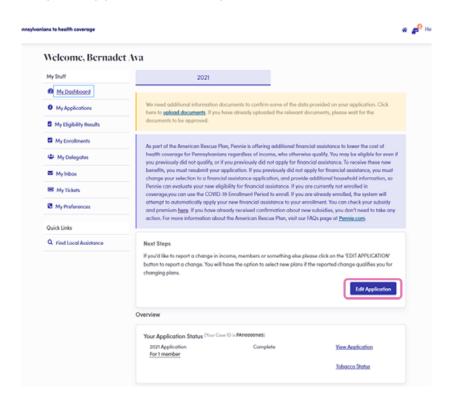
Step 4B: Adjust Month Tax Credit Amount by using the slider and click "Confirm"



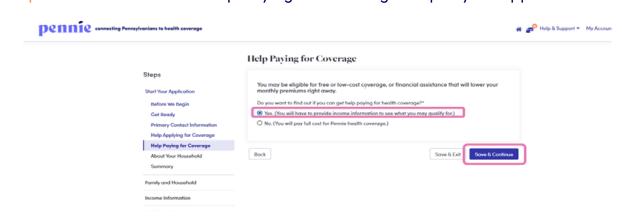
Updating application for customer who previously indicated they did not want Pennie to determine their eligibility for financial assistance.

Step 1: Login to your Pennie account at pennie.com

Step 2: Select 'Edit your application' from your Pennie account dashboard



Step 3: Select 'Yes' in the 'Help Paying for Coverage' step in your application

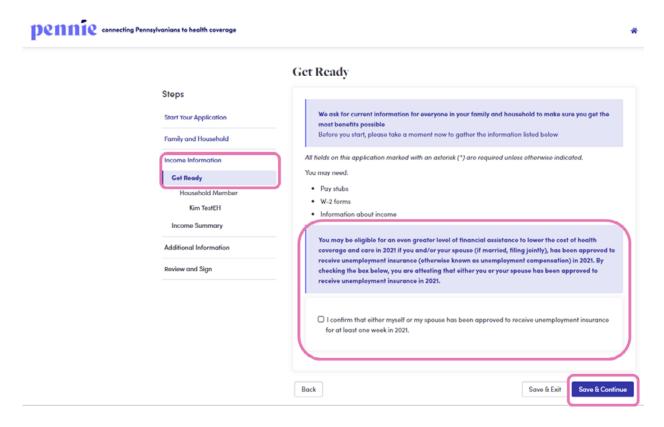


Note: You can navigate to this step on the panel located on the left-hand side of your application

Step 4: Follow the remaining steps to submit your updated eligibility application

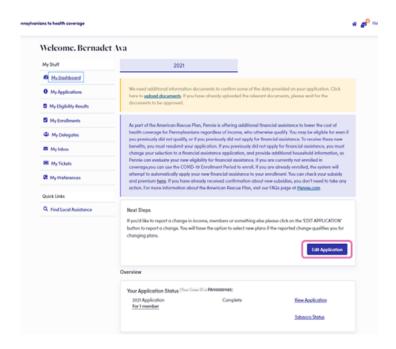
NOTE: You will need to provide information about your household, including household income.

Where you eligible for unemployment compensation in 2021? Anyone who was eligible for just one week of unemployment benefits in 2021 could be eligible for additional savings. Make sure to complete the "Get Ready" tab under "Income Information" as show below.

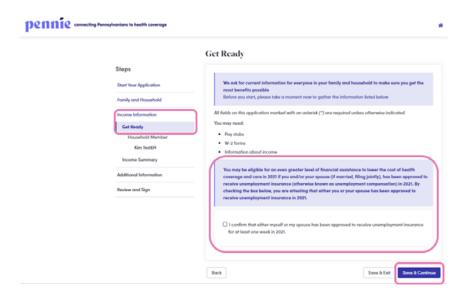


Updating Unemployment Status

- Step 1: Login to your Pennie.com account.
- Step 2: Navigate to 'Edit Application' from your Dashboard.



Step 3: Navigate to 'Income Information,' 'Get Ready' and check the box next to 'I confirm that either myself or my spouse has been approved to receive unemployment insurance for at least one week in 2021.'

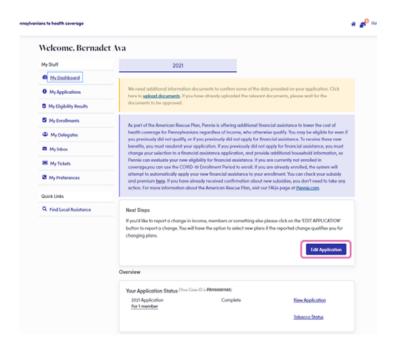


Step 4: Follow the remaining steps to submit your updated eligibility application.

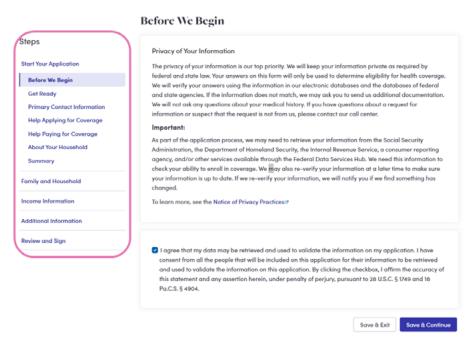
Changing Plans under the COVID-19 Enrollment Period

Step 1: Login to Pennie.com Account

Step 2: Navigate to 'Edit Application' from your Dashboard.



Step 3: Click through and make any updates to your application you need to make at this time and 'Review and Sign' Application.



Step 4: Once you have completed editing your application navigate back to 'My Dashboard' and click 'Change Plans.'

