This notice applies to all Olympic College Employees, including Work Study Student Employees.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Notice of Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Benefits

General Information

Olympic College is required to send this affordable Care Act (ACA) information to all Olympic College Employees, including Work Study Student Employees. All students might find the information useful in number 1, 2, 5 and 6. The other items only apply to Olympic College employees.

Beginning in 2014, most individuals will be required to have health insurance coverage. There will be a new way to buy health insurance through the new health insurance Marketplace, also known as the Health Insurance Exchange. Washington Healthplanfinder is the Marketplace serving Washington residents. This notice provides basic information about the Marketplace as well as PEBB benefits offered by your employer and is intended to assist you in evaluating options for you and your family.

1. What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

   Under the ACA, every state must have a health insurance Marketplace to help people buy health insurance. The Marketplace offers assistance to help you find and compare medical health insurance options offered by private companies. The Marketplace will also help you find out if you qualify for premium tax credits or other financial assistance.

2. When does open enrollment begin?

   Open enrollment for the Marketplace begins October 1, 2013 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2014.

3. 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 you are not eligible for PEBB medical plan enrollment as an employee. The amount of premium savings in the Marketplace depends on your household income.

4. Does being eligible for an employer contribution for PEBB medical coverage affect eligibility for premium savings through the Healthplanfinder?

   Yes.

   - Employees eligible for employer contribution:

     All eligible state employees receive an employer contribution for PEBB medical plan enrollment and are not allowed to waive PEBB medical coverage to enroll in coverage through the
Marketplace. All or a portion of this contribution may be excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. These employees should remain enrolled in their PEBB medical plan.

State employees who are eligible to receive an employer contribution cannot use the employer contribution to purchase coverage through the Marketplace, and will not be eligible for a premium tax credit if they purchase coverage through the Marketplace.

However, if the cost of a PEBB health plan to cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or does not meet the “minimum value” standard set by the ACA, you may be eligible for a tax credit or other financial assistance. 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.

- Employees not eligible for employer contribution:

Employees who are not eligible for the employer contribution for PEBB medical plan enrollment should consider applying for health benefits in the new Marketplace as they may qualify for a premium tax credit or other financial assistance. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

5. How do I get additional information about the Marketplace?

The Marketplace simplifies your search for health coverage by gathering the options available in your area in one place. You can compare plans based on price, benefits, quality, and other features important to you before you make a choice.

Visit www.healthcare.gov (with a live chat option) or also get help by phone, or in person. Call 1-800-318-2596, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).

6. How do I contact the Washington Healthplanfinder?

For Washington State residents, Washington Healthplanfinder can help you evaluate Marketplace coverage options and possible premium savings online, by phone, or in person:

Washington Healthplanfinder
521 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501
360-688-7700 www.wahealthplanfinder.org

7. How do I get more information about PEBB benefits?

For more information about PEBB health plans offered by your employer, please check the Certificate of Coverage for your plan, or contact your benefits office.

You can also find complete information about PEBB benefits at the PEBB website: www.hca.wa.gov/pebb