

## **MARKETPLACE EXCHANGE NOTICE**

### **About the Marketplace Exchange Notice:**

The following notice describes the new online Health Insurance Marketplace (also called an Exchange) available at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov). The Marketplace describes options you may have available for health insurance (other than employer-based plans), and is designed for easy cost and coverage comparisons. The enclosed notice also includes information about coverage you may be eligible for through the City of Medford. Effective January 1, 2014, all individuals are required to have medical coverage or pay a penalty, in the form of a tax. (Some exceptions apply.) If you do not qualify for coverage through the City of Medford or you do not enroll yourself or a dependent, you may have to obtain coverage elsewhere or pay the penalty. This penalty is known as the 'individual mandate penalty'.

### **What do I do next?**

Review the information provided in the notice. You can learn more about the Marketplace at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

### **New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage**

#### **PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

When key parts of the health care law took effect in 2014, a new way to buy health insurance became available: The *Health Insurance Marketplace*. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment based health coverage offered by your employer.

#### **What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?**

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away.

#### **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 your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

#### **Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?**

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.

*Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage- is pre-tax and excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.*

#### **How Can I Get More Information?**

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact Jill Auburn, at 541-774-2012.

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, HealthCare.gov will guide you through the process. Here's the employer information you'll enter when you visit HealthCare.gov to find out if you can get a tax credit to lower your monthly premiums.

**PART B: INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH COVERAGE OFFERED BY YOUR EMPLOYER**

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. (Numbers correspond to the Marketplace application):

3. **Employer name:** City of Medford
4. **Employer Identification Number:** 93-6002207
5. **Employer address:** 411 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street
6. **Employer phone number:** 541-774-2012
7. **City:** Medford
8. **State:** Oregon
9. **ZIP code:** 97501
10. **Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?** Jill Auborn
11. **Phone number:** 541-774-2012
12. **Email address:** [jill.auborn@cityofmedford.org](mailto:jill.auborn@cityofmedford.org)

***Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:***

- We offer a health plan to all eligible employees: The plan's eligibility requirements are stated in the Member Benefit Handbook. All employees who meet those requirements are eligible for coverage.
- We offer a health plan to all eligible dependents: The plan's eligibility requirements are stated in the Member Benefit Handbook. All dependents who meet those requirements are eligible for coverage.

**This coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.**

*\*\* Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.*