

Arkansas Insurance Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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2015 Projected Qualified Health Plan Individual Premium Rates for Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (October 3, 2014) – Arkansas Insurance Commissioner Jay Bradford today announced the projected monthly premium rates for the health insurance plans to be offered through the Health Insurance Marketplace in 2015.

“We’re confident that Arkansans will have plenty of high quality health insurance options to choose from at competitive prices,” Bradford said.

“These rates are further proof that the Health Insurance Marketplace continues to work well in Arkansas, providing people with the 10 Essential Health Benefits and guaranteed coverage regardless of health status. And, it’s important to remember you may be eligible for assistance paying your premiums.”

Federal tax credits may reduce what the consumer pays toward the listed rates, depending on the consumer’s household income.

Altogether, rates for all Marketplace consumers in 2015 are projected to drop on average by approximately 2 percent from 2014. Also, in 2015 there will be more competition with five carriers (up from four in 2014). All carriers plan to serve all areas of the state.

The projected 2015 rates released today do not become final until the Marketplace health insurance plans are certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We anticipate this certification on or before November 3, 2014 with few, if any, changes to the rates. The rates have been thoroughly reviewed by the insurance carriers, officials at the Arkansas Insurance Department, and the actuarial firm of Lewis & Ellis Inc. of Dallas.

“An average reduction in premiums is a huge success for the state of Arkansas,” said David Dillon, Vice President and Principal at Lewis & Ellis. Across the country, health insurance rates historically have increased by about 8-10 percent a year, he said.

(more)

Open enrollment runs from November 15, 2014, to February 15, 2015.

Rates vary by company, type of plan, age, geographical rating area, and in some cases, by smoking status. There are more than 19,000 possible rates for plans offered through the Marketplace in Arkansas.

The health insurance carriers approved by AID to offer Qualified Health Plans through the Marketplace are: Ambetter of Arkansas, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, Blue Cross Blue Shield Multi-State, QC Life and Health, and QualChoice Health Insurance.

For projected 2015 rate listings visit:

https://ipa.arhealthconnector.arkansas.gov/Rates2015_Select.aspx

The link provides a search feature for specific rates as well as an option to download the complete list of all rates.

For a map of the seven rating areas in Arkansas visit:

<http://insurance.arkansas.gov/RatingMap.pdf>

The following chart includes the projected 2015 average Silver level non-tobacco monthly rates for the median age in Arkansas (38). The average rates are listed by each carrier in each rating area and do not include tax credits.

	Ambetter of Arkansas	Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield	Blue Cross Blue Shield, Multi-State Plan	QC Life and Health	QualChoice Health Insurance
1. Central	\$338	\$294	\$309	\$363	\$363
2. Northeast	\$294	\$273	\$287	\$399	\$399
3. Northwest	\$309	\$276	\$291	\$327	\$327
4. South Central	\$283	\$272	\$286	\$363	\$363
5. Southeast	\$277	\$291	\$307	\$399	\$399
6. Southwest	\$296	\$295	\$310	\$399	\$399
7. West Central	\$295	\$263	\$276	\$327	\$327