

# The American Rescue Plan Act and Vermont's Health Insurance Marketplace – an Update

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## 1. ARPA subsidy provisions

- How ARPA Impacts Vermont Health Insurance
- Comparison of Net Premiums in Vermont vs. U.S. Average
  - Before ARPA, After ARPA, and with Issuers' Proposed 2022 Rates

## 2. ARPA subsidy implementation

- Key 2021 Milestones for Vermont's Health Insurance Marketplace
- "After ARPA" Plan Comparison Tool Now Live
- Who Can Do What When

# Five Ways ARPA Impacts Vermont Health Insurance

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- 1) More Generous Premium Tax Credits – for 2021 and 2022
- 2) Tax Credit Eligibility for Vermonters with Much Higher Incomes – for 2021 and 2022
- 3) Opportunity for Zero-Premium Plans with Very Low Out-of-Pocket Costs for Households with 2021 Unemployment Compensation – for 2021
- 4) Holiday from Tax Credit Reconciliation – for 2020 only
- 5) Full COBRA reimbursement for six months (April 1 – Sept 30, 2021)

Require System Updates

Impacts Current Exchange Members and Direct Enrollees

# Net Silver Premium for Individual with \$19,000 Income

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\*If a Vermonter chooses a plan that costs more than benchmark (second lowest cost silver plan), they can use Vermont Premium Assistance to bring down cost.

After implementation, this Vermonter will be able to choose one of four zero-premium silver plans for 2021.

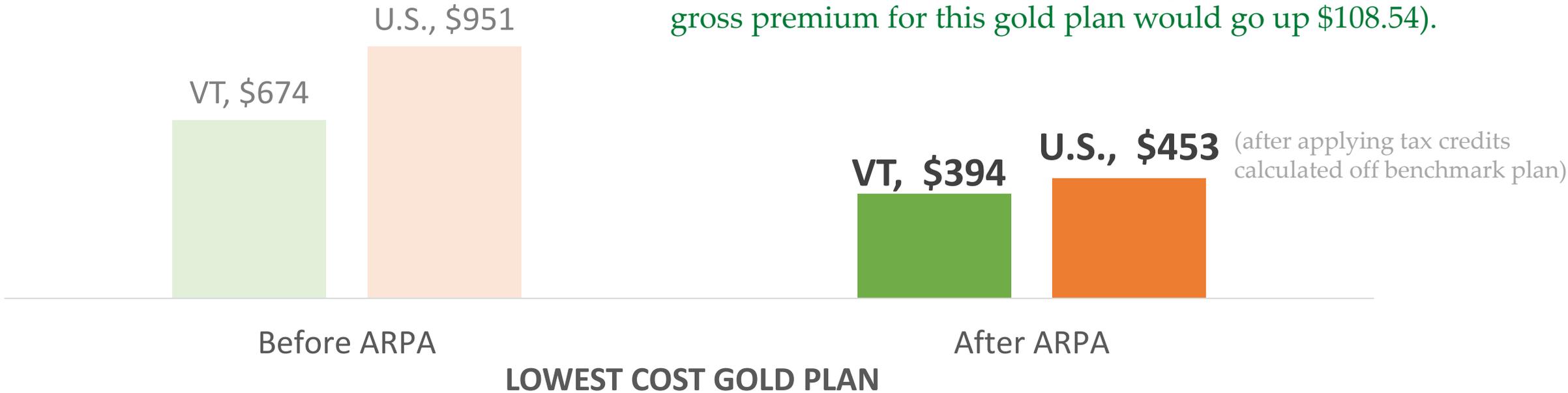
If the issuers' proposed 2022 rates hold, this Vermonter will be able to choose one of seven zero-premium silver plans for 2022.



National figures from KFF

# Net Gold Premium for 60-year-old individual with \$55,000 Income

If the issuers' proposed 2022 rates hold, this Vermonter would pay \$1 more in 2022 (because the benchmark plan - and thus their subsidy - would go up \$107.54, while the gross premium for this gold plan would go up \$108.54).



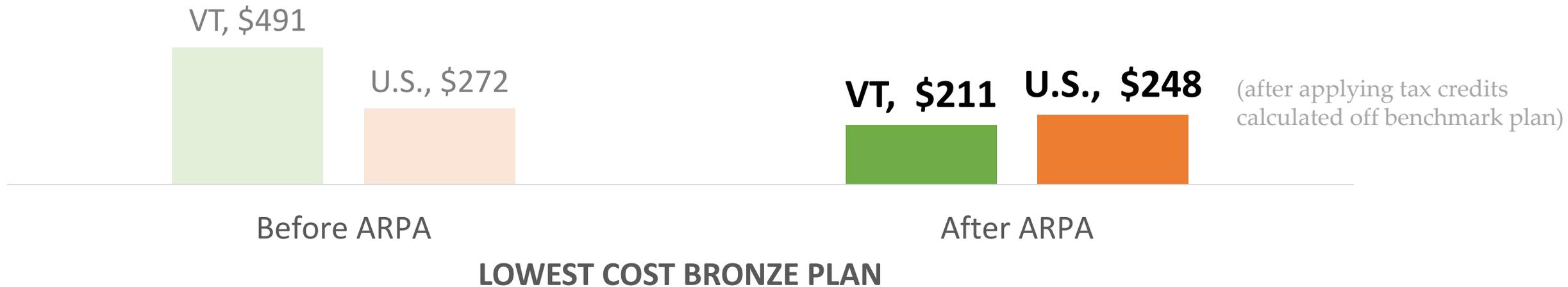
(after applying tax credits calculated off benchmark plan)

National figures from KFF

# Net Bronze Premium for 27-year-old individual with \$55,000 Income

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If the issuers' proposed 2022 rates hold, this Vermonter would pay \$5 less in 2022 (because the gross premium for this plan would go up by less than their subsidy).

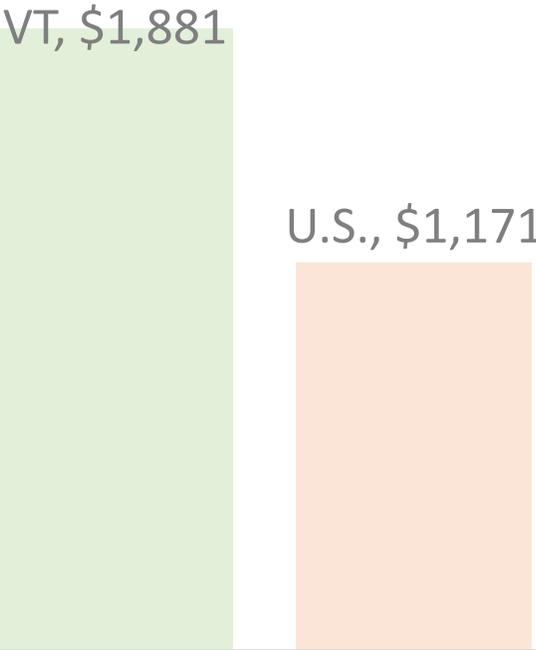


National figures from KFF



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DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS

# Net Silver Premium for Family of Three with \$150,000 Income



Regardless of rate increases, this family would continue to pay \$1,063 – 8.5% of their income – in 2022.



Before ARPA

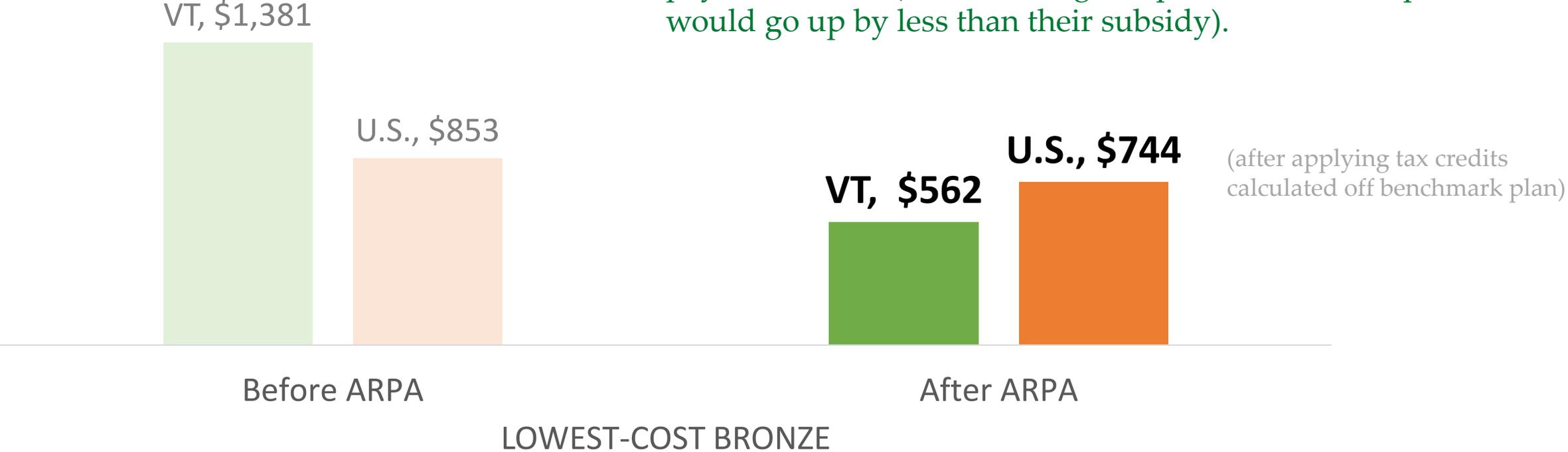
After ARPA

BENCHMARK SILVER

National figures from KFF, assumes two 40-year-old non-smokers and one 10-year-old child

# Net Bronze Premium for Family of Three with \$150,000 Income

If the issuers' proposed 2022 rates hold, this family would pay less in 2022 (because the gross premium for this plan would go up by less than their subsidy).



National figures from KFF, assumes two 40-year-old non-smokers and one 10-year-old child

# Key 2021 Milestones for Vermont's Health Insurance Marketplace

## Special Enrollment Period for New Members

**All winter, spring, and summer:** Vermonters have been able to enroll in the marketplace through a COVID special enrollment period, extended until October 1 to allow:

- Vermonters without insurance to take advantage of the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) subsidies
- Vermonters on COBRA to enroll in the marketplace after their temporary COBRA subsidy ends in September.

## Plan Transfers from Direct-Enroll

**April-Nov:** Members who direct-enrolled with an issuer can transfer their plan into the marketplace.

Members will qualify for tax credits for every month enrolled in the marketplace – so it pays to act soon.

They will be able to take this tax credit as a tax refund next spring and/or as a discount on their monthly bill later this year.

Any payments already made toward the deductible and out-of-pocket limit will transfer with their plan.

## Applying Subsidies for New and Current Members

**June:** System updates will be deployed.

Members will automatically be told of their new subsidy calculations. They will have the opportunity to apply some or all of their new tax credits as a discount on future bills.

Vermonters who hadn't wanted to enroll at previous levels of subsidies will be able to enroll and take advantage of new subsidies.

## Opportunity to Change Plans Mid-year

**Summer:** Members can decide to change to a different metal level or plan design that best meets their needs and takes fullest advantage of their new subsidies.

An updated 2021 Plan Comparison Tool is already available to help them plan for their summer decision.

## 2022 Open Enrollment

**Nov-Dec:** Most of ARPA's expanded subsidies continue into 2022.

Starting in 2022, all members will pay their monthly premium to their insurance company.

To qualify for subsidies, members still must apply and select a plan through the marketplace.



you.



PLAN COMPARISION TOOL



APPLY NOW



REPORT A CHANGE

# “After ARPA” Plan Comparison Tool Now Live

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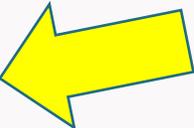
- Click on the ‘Plan Comparison Tool’ icon at VermontHealthConnect.gov



Tell us about those who will be covered under this insurance.

1 - Who will be covered?

**Person 1**

Age when coverage starts  

Relationship

Health Status  

Expected Medical Procedures

Member of Federally Recognized Tribe

Pregnant woman?

Add Another Person

2 - Would you like to find out if you can get help paying for coverage? 

Yes  No

# Estimating Your Financial Help and Costs

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- Enter the age of each person who needs coverage, as well as their relationship to each other.
- If you want a more accurate estimate of likely out-of-pocket costs, you have the option to enter your health status and any expected procedures...
- Or just leave them blank to see the average for someone your age.



## Financial help for buying health insurance on Vermont Health Connect

Based on your reported information, we estimate that you may qualify for:

Premium Subsidy  
(APTC+VPA)

**\$662** per month

Enhanced Silver with  
Cost-Sharing Reductions

**Silver 87**

for coverage for the following person(s) you listed:

- **Person 1 (Age 40)**

Our estimate shows that you may qualify for a cost-sharing reduction, **Silver 87**, which lowers the amount you pay for out-of-pocket costs like deductibles, coinsurance, and copays. If low out-of-pocket costs are important to you, you'll find that Silver 87 plans have a similar out-of-pocket to platinum plans, and a much lower monthly premium too.

If you think you might have a complicated situation, please call Vermont Health Connect at [855-899-9600](tel:855-899-9600) for more information and to see if this eligibility estimate is accurate for your situation.

# Estimating Your Financial Help and Costs

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- An individual making \$25,000 per year can qualify for \$662 per month in financial help (up from \$569 per month “Before ARPA”).
- A person with this income also qualifies for an Enhanced Silver 87 plan, meaning that silver plans are likely to have the lowest total costs (premium plus out-of-pocket costs) if they have high medical needs.



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Filters

Sort By Cost in a Bad Year

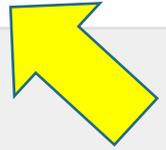
# Choosing the Best Plan for Your Situation

**MVP VT Silver 4 HDHP**  
MVP Health Care - HMO - Silver

**Yearly Cost Estimates**

Good Year	Average Year	Bad Year
<b>\$89</b>	<b>\$859</b>	<b>\$1,489</b>

Monthly Premium: **\$7.38** - after \$662.00 subsidy  
Deductible: **\$1,400**  
Max Out-of-Pocket: Medical: **\$1,400** / Drug: **\$1,400**



**MVP VT Plus Silver 2 HDHP**  
MVP Health Care - HMO - Silver

**Yearly Cost Estimates**

Good Year	Average Year	Bad Year
<b>\$201</b>	<b>\$1,001</b>	<b>\$1,701</b>

Monthly Premium: **\$16.71** - after \$662.00 subsidy  
Deductible: **\$1,500**  
Max Out-of-Pocket: Medical: **\$1,500** / Drug: **\$1,400**

Sort plans by:

- premium,
- total costs in an average year,
- or “worst-case scenario” total costs.

**BCBSVT Vermont Select CDHP Silver Plan**  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont - EPO - Silver

[< Back to Results](#)

# Choosing the Best Plan for Your Situation

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Plan	BCBSVT Vermont Preferred Silver Plan <a href="#">To Enroll</a>
Yearly Cost Estimate	\$1,451
Cost in a Bad Year	\$3,161
Plan Id	13627VT0380006-05
Insurance Company	Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont
Plan Type	EPO
Plan Metal Level	Silver
Link to Plan's Doctor Directory	<a href="#">View Plan's Doctor Directory</a>
Link to Prescription Drug Lists	<a href="#">View Plan's Drug List</a>
Summary of Benefits and Coverage	<a href="#">View Summary of Benefits and Coverage</a>

- Click on a plan's name to see more details.
- To see if providers are in a plan's network, click on "View Plan Doctor Directory."
- To see how particular prescription drugs are treated, click on "View Plan's Drug List."



# In sum: who can do what when

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If you:	What can you do right now?	What can you do this summer?
Don't have health insurance	Apply for coverage and financial help through Vermont Health Connect.	Login to your account or call us to start getting your premium tax credits in advance.
Are enrolled with Vermont Health Connect	You don't need to do anything right now.	Login to your account or call us to start getting your premium tax credits in advance.
Get health insurance directly from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont or MVP Health Care	Read our instructions for transferring your qualified health plan. The sooner you transfer your plan, the more tax credits you will get!	Login to your account or call us to start getting your premium tax credits in advance. You can also switch plans.
Got unemployment benefits in 2021	Call Vermont Health Connect and tell us you got unemployment in 2021. You'll get extra financial help.	Login to your account or call us to start getting your premium tax credits in advance.
Have COBRA coverage	You don't need to do anything. The federal government will pay your COBRA premiums through September 2021. If your COBRA coverage has not yet started, you can enroll through Vermont Health Connect instead.	Decide if you want to enroll in Vermont Health Connect coverage when the federal government stops paying your COBRA premium after September 2021.
Have job-based insurance	You don't need to do anything. People with affordable job-based insurance can't get financial help through Vermont Health Connect.	
Have Medicaid or Medicare	You don't need to do anything. People with Medicaid or Medicare can't get premium tax credits.	

Currently posted at <https://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/ARPA>