

FROM DAY ONE: IMMEDIATE BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

Today, President Obama signed health insurance reform into law. Starting from day one and throughout the next year, our families, small businesses, seniors, and young Americans will begin to feel the real and positive impact of reform. The following table describes some of those benefits.

BENEFIT	HELP FOR...	WHAT THIS MEANS FOR AMERICANS
<i>Effective Upon Enactment</i> <i>(Immediately Eligible For These Benefits)</i>		
Small Business Tax Credits	Small Businesses	Provides tax credits to small businesses to make employee coverage more affordable. Tax credits of up to 35% of premiums will be immediately available to firms that choose to offer coverage. <i>(Beginning in 2014, the small business tax credits will cover 50 percent of premiums.)</i>
Closing Medicare Part D “Donut Hole”	Seniors	Provides a \$250 rebate to Medicare beneficiaries who hit the “donut hole” in 2010. <i>(Beginning in 2011, institutes a 50% discount on brand-name drugs in the donut hole; also completely closes the donut hole by 2020.)</i>
<i>Effective 90 Days After Enactment</i>		
Immediate Help For The Uninsured Until Exchange Is Available	Families	Provides immediate access to insurance for Americans who are uninsured because of a pre-existing condition – through a temporary high-risk pool.
<i>Effective 6 Months After Enactment</i>		
No Discrimination Against Children With Pre-Existing Conditions	Young Americans	Prohibits health plans from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions. <i>(Beginning in 2014, this prohibition would apply to all persons.)</i>
Extends Coverage For Young People Up To 26th Birthday Through Parents’ Insurance	Young Americans	Requires health plans to allow young people up to their 26th birthday to remain on their parents’ insurance policy, at the parents’ choice.
Ends Rescissions	Families	Bans health plans from dropping people from coverage when they get sick.
Bans Lifetime Limits On Coverage	Families	Prohibits health plans from placing lifetime caps on coverage.
Bans Restrictive Annual Limits On Coverage	Families	Tightly restricts new plans’ use of annual limits to ensure access to needed care. These tight restrictions will be defined by HHS. <i>(Beginning in 2014, the use of any annual limits would be prohibited for all plans.)</i>
<i>Effective Beginning January 1, 2011</i>		
Free Preventive Care Under Medicare	Seniors	Eliminates co-payments for preventive services and exempts preventive services from deductibles under the Medicare program.
Ensuring Value For Premium Payments	Families	Requires plans in the individual and small group market to spend 80 percent of premium dollars on medical services, and plans in the large group market to spend 85%. Insurers that do not meet these thresholds must provide rebates to policyholders.