

# Planning to file your taxes in 2015?

# Important information to know about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and your tax return

The **individual shared responsibility** provision of the ACA Health Care Law requires you and each member of your family to either:

- · have qualifying health insurance (called minimum essential coverage), OR
- have an exemption, OR
- make a shared responsibility payment when filing a federal income tax return.

## What you need to know

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#### Do I have minimum essential coverage?

Yes, if for every month of 2014 you and your family had:

- employer-sponsored health care coverage or
- coverage through most government-sponsored programs (Medicare, Medicaid, etc.), as well as certain other plans or
- coverage obtained through a Health Insurance Marketplace (Washington Health Plan Finder).
  - Form 1095 will be sent to taxpayers who obtained coverage through the Marketplace, with information about any tax credits received to pay for insurance.

## Learn more/get help

#### What if I need health care coverage?

- Contact the WA Health Plan Finder at www.wahealthplanfinder.org
- Call 855-WAFINDER (855-923-4633)
- To find help in Pierce County to sign up for insurance, visit tpchd.org/HealthCareReform
- Open enrollment ends Feb. 15, 2015.

# If I don't have coverage, am I eligible for an exemption? Maybe, if:

- You are a member of certain religious sects, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or a health care sharing ministry.
- You may also be eligible if you are suffering a hardship, meet certain income criteria, or are uninsured for less than 3 consecutive months of the year.

# How can I learn more about or apply for an exemption?

- Visit <u>www.healthplan.gov</u> and enter the search term: "apply for an exemption." Download, fill out, and mail in the application that fits your situation. It may take 1-2 weeks for a response.
- If you are eligible for the exemption, you will be sent an exemption certificate number.

## Will I have to make a shared responsibility payment on my 2014 tax return?

**Yes, if** you or any of your dependents **don't** have minimum essential coverage **or** an exemption. For 2014 tax returns, the payment amount is the **greater** of:

- 1% of your household income that is above your tax return filing threshold, or
- \$95 per adult (\$47.50 per child), up to a family maximum of \$285.

#### How can I get help with my taxes?

- Many locations provide <u>free</u> tax preparation and help from late January through April 15, 2015. Call 2-1-1 after January 15th to find a location in Pierce County near you.
  - Please bring your health insurance card, form 1095, or exemption certificate number with you to complete your tax return.
- Or file online for free at <u>myfreetaxes.com</u> (for households with incomes up to \$60,000).

Visit irs.gov/aca or call 2-1-1

