

# Emergency I&F special enrollment period now underway

The Washington Health Benefit Exchange recently announced an emergency [special enrollment period](#) (SEP) for the uninsured.

The SEP parallels the federal COVID-19 SEP ordered by President Biden and runs from February 15 through May 15, 2021. The Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner has also issued an [emergency ruling](#) that extends the SEP to individual health plans offered off the exchange.

## Who is eligible for the SEP?

Uninsured individuals and families signing up for new coverage are eligible for the SEP. Enrollees do not need to have experienced a qualifying life event or other special circumstance and do not need qualifying proof.

During this time, those currently uninsured, seeking coverage, or enrolled in a health-sharing ministries, short-term limited duration plan, or COBRA can enroll.

## Timeline and premium payment requirements

- Enrollments that occur on or before the 15th of the month will have a coverage start date of the first day of the following month.
- Enrollments occurring after the 15th will have a coverage start date that begins the first of the second month.
- Coverage purchased through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange requires that the initial payment be made 30 days from the effective date of coverage before being canceled for non-payment.
- Off-exchange enrollees will receive a billing statement for their premium and they should pay their premium by the first of the month coverage is effective.

## Who can assist prospective members?

Clients seeking coverage through Washington Healthplanfinder need to work through an exchange-certified producer or one of the [resources](#) provided on the Washington Healthplanfinder website.

For clients seeking Individual coverage off the exchange, we encourage you to send them your link to the Kaiser Permanente Washington off-exchange enrollment portal. If you need more information about this option, contact the Individual & Family producer support team at 1-800-474-1079 or [ifsales@kp.org](mailto:ifsales@kp.org)