

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Is there an income limit to be eligible for ALHCTC?

**A:** There is no income eligibility requirement.

**Q:** I am not eligible for Medicare, but my spouse is. Does that make us ineligible for ALHCTC?

**A:** Not completely. As long as you meet the eligibility requirements, you are able to benefit from ALHCTC. Your premium is eligible, however your spouse's premium would not be and you would be required to pay his or her portion of the health insurance bill.

**Q:** If I am eligible for ALHCTC do I make my premium payment and then get reimbursed?

**A:** No. ALHCTC can not reimburse you for payments that you have made on your own.

**Q:** Why do I have to apply for both the Alabama and the Federal HCTC Programs? Can't I just apply for one or the other?

**A:** If you apply for ALHCTC, you must apply for Federal HCTC. The Federal Program can take a while to finalize your enrollment, so ALHCTC is designed to provide you with the Advance Payment while your application is being processed with the Federal Program. If you apply for the Federal Program, you do not have to apply for ALHCTC, however you would not benefit from the 65% Advance Payment while you wait for the Federal Program to complete your enrollment.

**Q:** What if I don't want to go through the application process?

**A:** If you do not want to apply for the Advance Payment, you can claim the Health Coverage Tax Credit on your year-end taxes. Form 8885 should be included with your tax return. Also, you should call the Federal HCTC Program now for additional information about this option.

**Q:** What documentation is required with my ALHCTC application? Also, should I send in the original documents that you require?

**A:** You will receive a checklist with your application that lists all required documents. You should send photocopies and keep a record for yourself.

## Important Contact Information

### Alabama Health Coverage

#### Tax Credit Program

ALHCTC

PO BOX 1316

SALISBURY MD 21802-1316

1-866-644-3780

TTY/TDD, Use Alabama Relay:

1-800-548-2546

Fax 1-877-341-7126

### Federal Health Coverage

#### Tax Credit Program

HCTC Processing Center

PO BOX 4700

WATERLOO, IA 50701

1-866-628-4282

TTY/TDD 1-866-626-4282

[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), keyword HCTC

This publication is meant as a general information guide and may not include all eligibility regulations.

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A program designed to pay **65%** of your eligible health care premium.

## Eligibility for ALHCTC

### Either:

- 1) You receive benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program (you can be receiving Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits, or exhausting your Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits before receiving your TRA benefits. You should also be in an approved training program, or on a training waiver).
- 2) You receive benefits under the Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) Program.
- 3) You receive PBGC (Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation) benefits and are 55 or older. If you are 65 or older, you must not be eligible for Medicare.

### And:

- 1) You are enrolled in a qualified health plan.
- 2) You return all information to ALHCTC that is required to determine your eligibility.

### YOU MUST ALSO APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL HEALTH COVERAGE TAX CREDIT.

ALHCTC is designed only to help you during the time that you are applying for the Federal HCTC Program, for a maximum of three months.

## Qualified Health Plans

- **BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama** (ask for the HCTC Qualified Plan) 1-800-292-8868
- **COBRA Coverage** through a prior employer
- **Individual insurance**, provided you were enrolled in that insurance at least 30 days prior to your last day of work
- **Your spouse's coverage**, provided that his or her employer pays less than 50% of the premium (this option is not eligible for the advance credit; contact Federal HCTC)
- Eligibility for or enrollment in certain other health plans can make you ineligible for ALHCTC

ALHCTC will pay 65% of your eligible health plan premium.

You pay 35% of your eligible premium in addition to any ineligible costs for your health care.

Your eligible health plan premium includes your basic health coverage. "Extras" such as vision, dental, or other charges are not covered by ALHCTC and will be included in the total that you are responsible for paying. In addition, if you have COBRA coverage, you are charged a 2% fee by the COBRA administrator that will not be covered by ALHCTC.

## ALHCTC Application Steps

- 1) Return your completed application with the required documents. Do not send any payments at this time.\*
- 2) Once you are determined eligible, you will be notified of the amount you will be responsible for paying.
- 3) Send your payment in the form of a **money order or certified check** made payable to Tri-County Council. Personal checks are not acceptable. You should include your invoice with your payment.
- 4) Once your payment is received by ALHCTC, your premium amount will be mailed to your insurance provider. ALHCTC will notify you by mail that your premium has been paid.
- 5) Continue to send in your payment portion with your invoice to ALHCTC until your enrollment is complete with the Federal HCTC Program. You should complete that process as quickly as possible.

\*You should continue to pay your insurance premiums until you receive notification that you are eligible for ALHCTC.

### **REMEMBER:**

YOU SHOULD ALSO APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL HEALTH COVERAGE TAX CREDIT. The programs are run separately and require separate applications.