



FAQs about Social Security Numbers

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about SSNs when applying for coverage through Maryland Health Connection.

Is a Social Security number required for everyone listed on an application?

Maryland Health Connection asks for Social Security numbers for everyone listed on the application; however, providing one is required only for (1) an adult or child who has an SSN and is applying for coverage or (2) a non-applicant who has filed taxes for the household within the last two years and wants help paying for coverage for the applicant(s).

(Nonapplicants include people who are only applying on behalf of someone else, but not for themselves, such as a parent applying for a child.)

Providing an SSN for other people who are not applying for coverage is *optional*; however, doing so will enable Maryland Health Connection to electronically verify household income and other information that is needed to determine eligibility.

If someone has an SSN, but does not provide it or enters it incorrectly, he/she may need to [submit documentation](#) to support any important information in the application that Maryland Health Connection was unable to verify.

Can I apply for coverage if I don't have a Social Security number?

Yes. People who do not have an SSN can still apply for health coverage through Maryland Health Connection. They, or the person applying for them, should check the box “*Do not have an SSN*” and answer the question “*Are you applying for an SSN?*”

If you do not have an SSN and are not applying for one, you should also select the reason you are not. If you have an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) instead of an SSN, enter it in the space provided. If you are not applying for coverage for yourself and applying



only on behalf of another person, you can leave this information blank for you unless you are the tax filer for the household and want help paying for coverage for the applicant(s).

We ask for this information because Medicaid and MCHP require applicants seeking coverage to have an SSN, apply for one, or have a reason that exempts them from the SSN requirement. Applicants who may be eligible for Medicaid should apply for an SSN, if they can get one. If an SSN is issued, they should update their application with it.

Applicants who are not applying for an SSN for one of the following reasons are **exempt** from the Medicaid SSN requirement:

- Not eligible for an SSN
- An SSN can only be issued for non-work reasons
- Well established religious objection

Applicants may still enroll in a Qualified Health Plan without applying for an SSN. However, if you don't have an SSN, you may need to provide additional information because Maryland Health Connection will not be able to electronically verify your SSN or other information such as income.

How can I apply for a Social Security number?

People can apply for an SSN or get assistance with applying for one in the following ways:

- Online at www.socialsecurity.gov
- Call 800-772-1213 (TTY: 800-325-0779)
- Visit your local health department or department of social services. A caseworker can assist you in completing an application for an SSN or help you obtain any evidence the Social Security Administration may need to identify you.

People who have applied for an SSN and are applying for coverage through Maryland Health Connection should select "Yes" for the question "*Are you applying for an SSN?*" If an SSN is issued, you should update your application.

How are Social Security numbers used by Maryland Health Connection?

Maryland Health Connection uses your Social Security number to verify household income and other information in your application to determine whether you're eligible for financial help to lower health coverage costs.



When you apply, Maryland Health Connection is required by federal law to verify your SSN with the Social Security Administration to ensure that it was issued to that individual, and your SSN may be used to verify household size and income with the Internal Revenue Service.

Your SSN also may be verified through secure electronic data matches with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to confirm the citizenship and/or immigration status of people applying for coverage. SSNs collected through Maryland Health Connection are not used for immigration enforcement purposes.

After you enroll, your SSN may be used to verify continued eligibility and in reports to the IRS about your enrollment and eligibility for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions.

To maintain operation of the marketplace, Maryland Health Connection may share your SSN with marketplace contractors, other federal or state agencies responding to concerns about security, and the insurance company that issues your plan.

For more information, see Maryland Health Connection's [Privacy Notice](#).

What documents can be used to verify my Social Security number or that I do not have one?

Maryland Health Connection is required by federal law to verify people's SSNs and other information when determining eligibility for health insurance programs.

If you did not enter your SSN, entered it incorrectly, or do not have one, you may receive a notice in your account inbox or the mail requesting that you provide additional information because Maryland Health Connection was not able to electronically verify an SSN or other information, such as income.

If you have a SSN, a copy of one of the documents below is acceptable:

- Social Security card
- Tax form(s)
- Benefit or income statement from Social Security containing your SSN



If you do not have an SSN or are applying for one, a copy of one of the documents below is acceptable:

- Pending application for an SSN
- Letter from Social Security stating that you are not eligible for an SSN or are only eligible for a non-work SSN
- Letter stating that you refuse to obtain an SSN for established religious objections
- [Affidavit/Exemption from Obtaining an SSN](#) (for people who are not eligible for an SSN, can only obtain one for non-work purposes, or who have a religious objection)

Other types of documents may be acceptable. If you do not see a particular type of document listed, contact Maryland Health Connection or your local health department or department of social services.

How do I provide my documents?

- Log into your online account at MarylandHealthConnection.gov and upload documents using the link in "My Inbox."
- Download our free mobile app (Enroll MHC) to submit documents using the camera of your mobile device (iOS or Android)
- If you are unable to submit documents online, you may mail them to Maryland Health Connection, P.O. Box 857, Lanham, MD 20703. Please include the cover page with a barcode that came with your notice.