



# Washington Health Benefit Exchange

*First Friday Forum*

May 4, 2018

# Washington Healthplanfinder system changes

Streamlined and customized special enrollment screen flow

Qualified health plan restriction logic for certain qualifying life events

Phase 2 of 3 Responsive Washington Healthplanfinder

My cart and shopping pages aligned with plan restriction logic

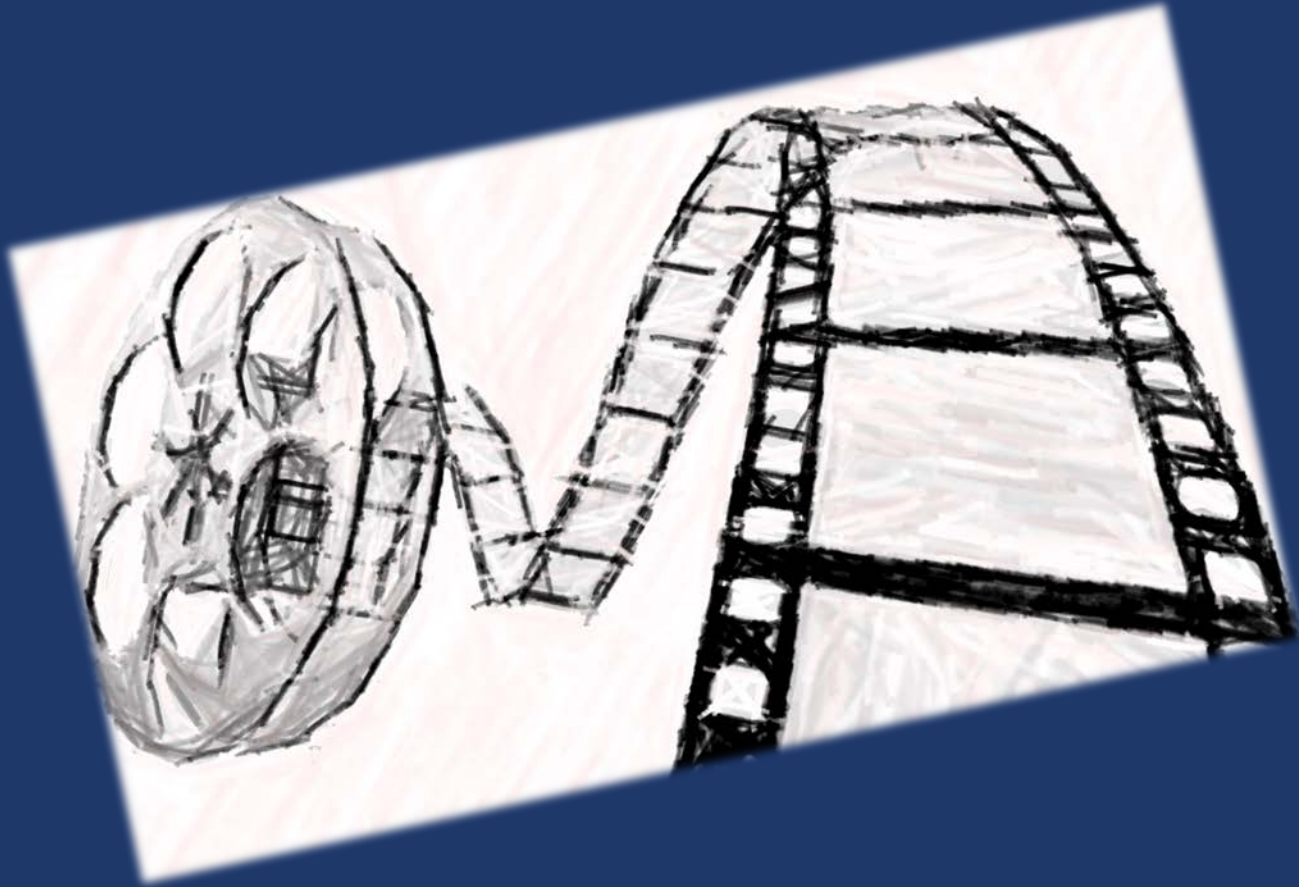
Correspondence Updates

Conditional Eligibility request for documents visible throughout entire individual account dashboard



# *Coming Attractions*

## *September 2018*



# Coming to a Healthplanfinder Near You!

- Search for Customer without using a SSN
- Search for Customer with an ACES ID
- Application ID at the bottom of all pages
- Customer name printed on e-Sign page



# *Spring Training*



# Stuff you want to know

Required – 2 modules: April system changes and Security  
Will be on your LMS dashboard April 16th - May 10th, noon



# ***Potential Federal Rule: Public Charge Test***

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# Potential New 'Public Charge Test' Rule

- Department of Homeland Security intends to propose significant changes to the way the “public charge test” in federal law is applied to certain immigrants seeking to obtain legal status
- On March 28, 2018, media published a leaked draft of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)
- The draft is now under review by the Office of Management and Budget
- Next step, if it moves forward, would be publication in the Federal Register and a comment period





# What is a ‘Public Charge Test’?

- This “public charge test” **applies only at the time a person’s application to become a legal permanent resident (a “green card” holder).**
- The public charge test **does not** apply to refugees, asylees, and people who have received humanitarian visas (Special Immigrant Juvenile, VAWA self-petitioners, U visas, T visas). It does not apply to legal permanent residents applying for citizenship.
- Immigration officials look at “the totality of circumstances” to determine if an applicant is likely to become a public charge
  - Past and current use of public benefits is only one of many factors that can prove an immigrant may become a public charge, and no one factor is definitive



# What would this rule do (in a nutshell)?

- Currently, the only benefits considered as evidence an immigrant could become a public charge is if he/she has used cash assistance (such as TANF or SSI) or long-term institutionalized medical care at the government's expense
- The leaked proposed rule would allow additional federally- and state-funded benefits to also be considered, such as:
  - SNAP (Basic Food in WA)
  - Medicaid (Washington Apple Health) and CHIP
  - Tax credits
  - WIC, and other non-cash supportive services
  - Earned Income Tax Credit
- The leaked proposed rule would allow use of benefits by the applicant or the applicant's family members to be considered



# Subsidized QHP Enrollees

- Exchange is very concerned about this potential rule
- Potential direct impact on subsidized QHP enrollees who are not citizens is limited
  - Vast majority are already lawful permanent residents
    - Note: LPRs who go outside the US for more than 6 months and attempt to re-enter could be subject to the public charge test
  - Many are in a status where the ‘public charge test’ does not apply
    - Ex: refugees, asylees
- Potential indirect impact is much larger
  - Coordinated, timely, relevant messaging and outreach to impacted communities will be essential if rule implemented



# Key Take Aways

- At this point, there is no reason for people to stop benefits that they or their families currently receive legally
- Even if the rules change, applicants will still be able to show why they are not likely to become a public charge in the future
- Immigrants who are concerned about the impact of using public benefits on their immigration case should get advice from an immigration attorney or accredited representative
- In Washington State, there is a broad coalition of nonprofit, public, and private sector organizations working to address the potential impact of this rule and protect families



# Questions?



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