

Health Coverage - 1095 Forms: What That Means for Your Taxes

You will need to answer a question about your 2016 health coverage when you file your federal income tax return. If you didn't have a minimum level of health and prescription coverage for all of 2016, your taxes could be affected. Most taxpayers simply need to check a box indicating they had qualifying health care and prescription coverage for the entire year.

Individual Mandate

Form 1095-B, for fully insured plans (CDPHP and BSNENY), and form 1095-C for the self-insured plan (Express Scripts), provides details about your actual insurance coverage, including who in your family was covered. These forms are used to verify on your tax return that you and your dependents have at least Minimal Essential Coverage (MEC). Form 1095-B will be sent out directly by the insurance carrier and 1095-C will be sent out by the employer.

The 1095-B and 1095-C forms identify:

- The type of coverage you have
- Your dependents covered
- The period of the coverage

Offer of Coverage

Form 1095-C shows the coverage that is offered to you by your employer as of the 2016 tax year. This form provides information on the coverage your employer offered and whether or not you chose to participate.

The 1095-C identifies:

- The employee and the employer
- Which months during the year you were eligible for coverage
- The cost of the cheapest monthly premium you could have paid under the plan for single only coverage

If enrolled in the Express Scripts self-funded plan, the 1095-C (Part III) will also serve as your verification of coverage as explained above.

South Colonie CSD Plans

If you had coverage during 2016, you will receive the following:

If you were enrolled in....	January 2016- December 2016	
	1095-B	1095-C
Express Scripts		✓
CDPHP, BSNENY	✓	

Please note: if you were in the Express Scripts plan and in a fully insured plan, you will receive one 1095-C from South Colonie CSD and one 1095-B from the fully insured carrier.

Only one copy of each form is provided to you for all the individuals covered by your plan; you may need to provide copies to your spouse or dependents, as necessary.

It's Tax Time and the IRS Needs New Information from You!

In order for the IRS to determine whether you are compliant with the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) "Individual Mandate", and so you can avoid a tax penalty, they will need specific information related to your health care coverage.

What is the Individual Mandate?

The ACA requires most US citizens to have health insurance or pay an additional tax.

What information does the IRS need from me?

They need to know whether you and your eligible dependents had "Minimal Essential Coverage" (MEC) at any point during the 2016 calendar year. All bargaining groups are offered insurance options that will meet the MEC requirements.

Where can I find this information?

This information can be found on a series of 1095 forms that you will receive if you or your eligible dependents have had any type of health or prescription insurance during the 2016 calendar year.

What do I do with the 1095 forms?

DO NOT THROW THEM AWAY! You will use these forms when you file your 2016 taxes in 2017. You should retain all 1095 forms you receive to assure you have complete information.

The image displays three IRS 1095 forms for the year 2016. The top form is Form 1095-C, 'Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage', for an applicable large employer member. It includes fields for the employer's name, address, and the employee's information, along with a table for the plan start month. The middle form is Form 1095-B, 'Health Coverage', for a responsible individual, detailing the start and end dates of health coverage. The bottom form is Form 1095-A, 'Covered Individual', which provides information for each covered individual, including their name, address, and the insurer's details. Each form includes checkboxes for 'VOID' and 'CORRECTED' and the year '2016'.