

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers (566 word count)

Post the following article on your websites and/or use in other communication vehicles to help your customers.

The Individual Shared Responsibility Provision Payment Estimator helps estimate the ISRP payment you may owe

The [individual shared responsibility provision](#) requires that you and each member of your family have qualifying health insurance, a health coverage exemption, or make a payment when you file a tax return.

If you, your spouse and all your dependents had health insurance coverage all year, you will simply check a box on your tax return. But, for any month during the year that you or any member of your family didn't have qualifying coverage and don't qualify for an [exemption](#) from coverage, you will owe a [shared responsibility payment](#) when filing your tax return.

In general, the payment amount is either a percentage of your income or a flat dollar amount, whichever is greater. You will owe 1/12 of the annual payment for each month you (or your dependents) do not have coverage and are not exempt. The annual payment amount for 2015 is the greater of:

- Two percent of your household income that is above the tax return threshold for your filing status, such as Married Filing Jointly or single.
- Your family's flat dollar amount, which is \$325 per adult and \$162.50 per child, limited to a maximum of \$975.

The individual shared responsibility payment is capped at the cost of the national average premium for the bronze level health plan available through the Health Insurance [Marketplace](#) in 2015. You will make the payment when you file your 2015 federal income tax return in 2016. Without an exemption or qualifying coverage, your 2015 shared responsibility payment could range from \$27 to \$12,420 if you have a high household income or have a large family.

So how do you know if you are responsible for this payment? Go to [Am I required to make an Individual Shared Responsibility Payment?](#) page on [IRS.gov](#). You can use this interactive interview tool to see if you must make the payment or not.

If you find that you must make the shared responsibility payment, then use the Taxpayer Advocate [Individual Shared Responsibility Provision -Payment Estimator](#) tool to get an estimate before filing the tax return. You can also use the Estimator to obtain a

reference amount (the shared responsibility payment plus out-of-pocket medical costs for the whole family) to compare the potential overall cost if you do not secure qualifying insurance coverage, with the total cost for securing insurance coverage. Doing the math on whether securing health insurance is more costly than not securing it will help you to make the best decision for your family.

If you purchase qualifying coverage from the Marketplace during the year, you may also be entitled to the [Premium Tax Credit](#) that can help cover part or all of the insurance policy cost depending on your household income. TAS also has a [Premium Tax Credit Change Estimator](#) tool to assist with figuring eligibility and estimating that credit amount as well.

Don't be caught off guard owing a large payment at tax time. Use the [Individual Shared Responsibility Provision - Payment Estimator](#) to help you and your family plan ahead — right now. It is available for use at any time, night or day. Give it a try — today.
