



# Special Enrollment Period for State Subsidy or Penalty

- After surveying the public and certified insurance agents, it was determined that too many California residents were still unaware of the new state subsidy or state penalty.
- For the 2020 benefit year, a new, short-term qualifying life event (QLE) will allow certain consumers to enroll through a special enrollment period (SEP) from February 18 through April 30, 2020.
- Consumers unaware of the state penalty, the new financial help, or who are currently insured off-exchange and want to switch to Covered California to benefit from the new state subsidies will be able to apply for Covered California.
- Those currently uninsured should contact [Coveredca.com](https://coveredca.com) or our Service Center **(800) 300-1506** to enroll.
- For insured Consumers looking to move to Covered CA they should contact their current Certified Insurance Agent to walk them through the process and facilitate the change.
- If the consumer does not have a Certified Insurance Agent, they can utilize our [Help-On-Demand](#) tool and will get a call back within 20 minutes.
- Things for consumers to consider when switching from an off-exchange insurance plan to Covered California plan include:
  - Covered California is working with issuers and regulators on a plan to allow the transfer of deductibles accumulated off-exchange to an on-Exchange health plan.
  - If the consumers income increases or household size changes, they may no longer be eligible to receive a subsidy, or their subsidy amount may change.
  - Coverage may be different depending on the metal tier that is selected.
  - Consumers may need to coordinate the date of cancelation with effective date, so they are not paying for double coverage.
  - Consumers should check the carrier's network to verify their current doctors are in network.
- Qualified consumers will receive a first of the month start date following plan selection.
- The sooner the first payment is made, the sooner consumers will receive their ID card and welcome packet and can use services. Consumers can pay their first month's bill through [CoveredCA.com](https://coveredca.com).
- Consumers should be notified that if they don't have coverage they may receive a penalty when they do their taxes.

- If you enroll by March 31, you will not incur a penalty. However, if you wait and enroll in April, you will have to pay the penalty for the entire period of the coverage gap, including the three-month short coverage gap period (e.g., four or five months of coverage gap for coverage start date of May or June 1).
  - Consumers enrolling by February 29 would have coverage effective March 1 (and no penalty as only two months without insurance);
  - Consumers enrolling by March 31 would have coverage effective April 1 (and no penalty as only three months without insurance); and
  - Consumers enrolling by April 30 would have coverage effective May 1 (and would have a pro-rated penalty of 1/3 of the annual penalty amount — assuming the individual is not otherwise exempt)
- For consumers interested in learning more about their special enrollment they can:
  - Visit <https://www.coveredca.com/>.
  - [Get free and confidential in-person assistance](#), in a variety of languages, from a certified enroller.
  - Have a certified enroller [call them](#) and help them for free.
  - Call Covered California at **(800) 300-1506**.