

SUMMARY TIMELINE:

Potential Impacts if Congress Does Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits

The information below reflects anticipated timelines for development of health insurance plans to be sold during the 2026 plan year and associated impacts by each milestone if Congress does not act to extend enhanced premium tax credits currently set to expire on December 31, 2025. Each state operates on its own timeline for plan development, which, in some cases, is codified under state law or regulation.

States begin developing 2026 marketplace plans

States set parameters and requirements for marketplace plans based on uncertain market conditions, including expected loss of young, healthier enrollees.

As early as
September 2024

May – June 2025

States receive 2026 proposed health plan rates from carriers

Anticipated rate increases driven by uncertain market conditions will be made public.

States approve final 2026 health plan rates

Final rates are made public and include increases based on anticipated lower enrollment and loss of healthier enrollees.

July – August 2025

August – October 2025

Consumers receive renewal notices that include their 2026 health insurance costs

Consumer confusion and “sticker shock” after seeing higher premiums and lower or no tax credits.

2026 window shopping opens

Early shoppers see significantly higher costs across marketplace plans.

September – October 2025

October – November 2025

2026 open enrollment season begins

Higher costs for marketplace consumers; millions may forego coverage.

For more information about the premium tax credits, please see:
<https://statemarketplacenetwork.org/enhanced-premium-tax-credits/>

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