

Updated: 3-2015. Disclaimer: The materials and information contained herein are intended only to provide general information and in no way constitute legal advice. If you have specific questions or concerns, please consult legal counsel.



ACA

- It's All About the Numbers



WHAT is ObamaCare?

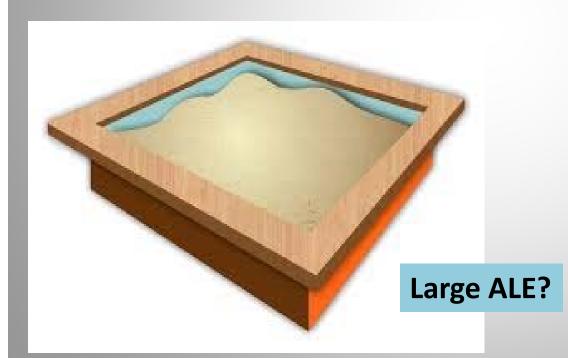
ObamaCare (AKA The <u>Affordable Care Act</u>) is a US law aimed at reforming the American <u>health</u> <u>care</u> system. ObamaCare's main focus is on providing more Americans with access to affordable <u>health insurance</u> improving the quality of health care and health insurance, regulating the health insurance industry, and reducing health care spending in the US.

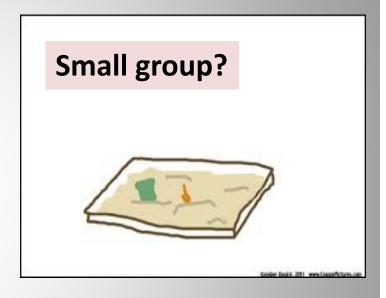
What makes and ACA Compliant Healthplan today

- 2015 Out of Pocket Maximums capped at \$6,600 for individuals (\$13,200 for families)
- Guaranteed Eligibility for ALL individuals No Pre-Existing Condition Limitations
- Preventative Care must be covered 100%
- No lifetime or annual limits in 2014
- Stand Alone HRAs are GONE.
- Maximum Wait period 90 calendar days in 2014 upon plan year renewal.

Which Sandbox Are You In?







Who are we counting?

Everyone in some fashion!!

- Not just belly buttons
- **❖** FTE Formula previous year for this year Size
- Full-Time (30+ week; 130 hours a month); Part-Time (<30 week)</p>
- ❖ Variable Hour (an ee who, based on facts and circumstances at the start date/first assignment, it cannot be determined that the ee is reasonably expected to work at least 30 hrs per week.)
- **❖** Calculation is based on entire workforce and includes "control group" *IRS Sec. 414(b), (c), (m), or (o)*.

Who has to "Pay or Play"?

Applicable Large Employers "ALEs" are those with 50 or more FTEs and have to offer Affordable and Minimum Value healthcare to all Eligible Full-Time Employees.

Employers with fewer than 50 FTEs are Small Group Employers and are NOT mandated to offer coverage.

Formula: FT (30 hrs+ a wk) + (Total part-time hours worked in a month/120) = FTE (Full-Time Equivalents)

Example: 93 FTs + (960 hrs/120 = 8) = 101
**RUN FORMULA FOR 6 Consecutive Months in 2014.

For 2015, only ALEs with 100+ FTEs are required to offer coverage. Those ALEs with between 50 and 99 FTEs must certify numbers.

When Do ALEs have to Comply with ACA

Generally, January 1, 2015 unless

New ALE did not know if over or under 100 FTEs so performed 6 month calculation for last 6 months of 2014 – then does not have to offer ACA compliant plan to all eligible until 4-1-15.

Mid-Size ALE – no need to comply until 2016 as long as.....

Mid-Size ALEs 2015

- (1) **Limited Workforce Size**. The employer must employ on average at least 50 full-time employees (including full-time equivalents) but fewer than 100 full-time employees (including full-time equivalents) on business days during 2014.
- (2) Maintenance of Workforce and Aggregate Hours of Service. During the period beginning on Feb. 9, 2014 and ending on Dec. 31, 2014, the employer may not reduce the size of its workforce or the overall hours of service of its employees in order to qualify for the transition relief. However, an employer that reduces workforce size or overall hours of service for bona fide business reasons is still eligible for the relief.

Maintenance of Previously Offered Health Coverage. During the period beginning on Feb. 9, 2014 and ending on Dec. 31, 2015 (or, for employers with non-calendar-year plans, ending on the last day of the 2015 plan year) the employer does not eliminate or materially reduce the health coverage, if any, it offered as of Feb. 9, 2014.

Certify this information using Form 6056.

When Do ALEs have to Comply with ACA

Generally, January 1, 2015 unless

New ALE did not know if over or under 100 FTEs so performed 6 month calculation for last 6 months of 2014 – then does not have to offer ACA compliant plan to all eligible until 4-1-15.

Mid-Size ALE – no need to comply until 2016 as long as.....

Plan year starts sometime other than January 1.....

Large ALE (100+ FTEs in 2014) – Compliance in 2015, when?

If on 12-27-12, had a fiscal year plan....

Fiscal Date hasn't changed

Changed fiscal plan year After 12-27-12

Have to offer coverage to comply with ACA on January 1, 2015.

Offered coverage to at least 1/3 of ALL employees or ¼ of ALL Employees on coverage as of last OE before 12-27-12.....

OR

Offered coverage to at least 1/2 of Full-Time Employees or at least 1/3 of all FT employees on Plan as of last OE before 2-9-14.



Compliance at beginning of Fiscal Plan year in 2015.

Small Group Employer Obligations and Options Fewer than 50 FTEs for 2015.

Insured Small Group Requirements

- Essential Health Benefits (not Self-Insured Plans)
- Ambulatory PatientServices
- Emergency Services
- Maternity & NewbornCare
- Pediatric Services
- Prescription Drugs
- Laboratory Services

- Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder
- Preventive & Wellness Services
- Chronic Disease Management
- Hospitalization
- •Rehabilitative/Habilitative
 Services & Devices (devices tax)

Insured Small Group Requirements

Guarantee Issue and No Medical Underwriting

3:1 Modified Community Rating

1. Age

Potential Liability – be careful that you have a justifiable business reason for hiring someone younger aside from ACA.

- 2. Community
- 3. Smoking (5:1)
- 4. Family Size

Employer Payment Plans

Notice 2013-54 and 2015-17

General Rule: Employers CANNOT pay premiums or reimburse premiums for individual employee policies but.....

Small employers can continue this practice until June 30, 2015.

Thereafter \$100 a day excise tax per employee

Large Group Employer Obligations and Options

Large ALE's Failure to Offer Coverage

Sec. 4890H(a) Penalties "Sledgehammer Penalties" for 2015 only

Does ALE offer coverage to "substantially all" eligible employees?

Substantially all = 95% of eligible EEs (2015 = 70%)

No

Eligible EE seeks coverage through Marketplace and receives premium tax credits.

CAUTION: Employer still potentially subject to **other** fines and penalties for the 30% not offered coverage**

yes

No 4980h(a) penalty payment owed by employer.



Employer must pay \$2,000 per annum for all eligible EEs (minus 30) regardless of whether Eligible EEs have coverage.

(2015 only Minus 80)

^{**}Please see 3-1-14 ETC Newsletter for more on the other penalties.

SLEDGEHAMMER PENALTY

Example: $93 \, \text{FTs} + (960 \, \text{hrs}/120 = 8) = 101 = \text{ALE}$

Penalty:

93 FTs - 80 FTs = 13 X \$2,000 = \$26,000

Or we cannot prove we offered coverage to 150 employees.....

Example:

500 FTs and WE FORGET TO OFFER COVERAGE TO 150 FTs. BUT 350 FTs are on plan.

Penalty:

500 FTs - 80 FTs = 420 X \$2,000 = \$840,000

A/MV Failures and Penalties

Sec. 4890H(b) Penalties "TackHammer Penalties"

Does employer offer A/MV coverage to all FT EEs?

A = affordable (9.5% or less of employee income)

YES

MV = minimum value (the plan's share of the total allowed costs of benefits is at least 60% of such costs) **No** and Employee seeks Marketplace Coverage:



No penalty owed by employer.

Employer must pay \$3,000 penalty for all employees who buy coverage through Marketplace and receive premium tax credits.

Let's talk about the Section 1411 Certification....

What is it and what does it mean to you??



ADDITIONAL LEGAL CHALLENGES

More on Employer Payment Plans

Notice 2015-17: What CAN an employer pay for an individual plan?

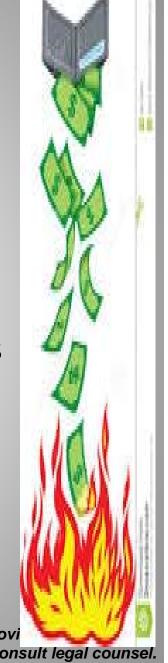
- 1. Small groups until June 30, 2015.
- 2. S Corp can pay for shareholder (2%+)
- 3. Medicare Premium Reimbursements **BUT THERE ARE REQUIREMENTS TO MEET....**
- 4. Tricare HRAs

Penalty if out of compliance: \$100 a day per affected employee - \$36,500 per year

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How do we avoid potential fines/penalties?

- Identify persons eligible for benefits.
- Offer benefits when owed.
- Keep accurate records of to whom you offer benefits and when.
- Maintain historical data to prove you did what was required of you when required.
- Be prepared to file your Form 6056 reports and provide the Employee Notice in early 2016.





What is going on with EBSA and who are they anyway?



Employee Benefits SecurityAdministration

- Responsible for ensuring compliance by both Retirement Plans and Health & Welfare Plans
 - No misuse of funds
 - Compliance with ERISA
 - Compliance with ACA

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) reimburses EBSA for H&W Plan Audits so......

DOL EBSA Audits

- Plan Compliance Audits
 - Large Group (Grandfathered; fully insured)
 - Small Group (Tax credits; no 5500 filing)
- The DOL has estimated that three out of four plans they audit have an ERISA violation.

Take away:

We need to audit Client SPDs, plan documents, and wrap documents NOW to ensure compliance.

SPD – what is it and what has to be in it?

- SPD (Summary Plan Description) is primary vehicle for communicating Plan rights and obligations to Participants and Beneficiaries.
- Generally -summary of the material provisions of the Plan Document written so the average participant can understand it.
- Can be a compilation of several documents including a Certificate of Coverage, plan booklets, required ERISA Disclosure Notices, etc.

What has to be included in a Summary Plan Description?

- Requirements Found in CFR § 2520.102-3
- An SPD must contain all of the following information:
- The Plan name
- The Plan Sponsor/employer's name and address
- The Plan Sponsor's EIN
- The Plan Administrator's name, address, and phone number

And.....

- Designation of any Named Fiduciaries, if other than the Plan Administrator, e.g., Claim Fiduciary
- The Plan number for ERISA Form 5500 purposes, e.g., 501, 502, 503, etc. (Note—each ERISA Plan should be assigned a unique number that is not used more than once.)
- Type of Plan or brief description of benefits, e.g., life, medical, dental, disability
- The date of the end of the Plan Year for maintaining Plan's fiscal records (which may be different than the insurance policy year)
- Each Trustee's name, title, and address of principal place of business, if the Plan has a Trust
- The name and address of the Plan's agent for service of legal process, along with a statement that service may be made on a Plan Trustee or Administrator
- The type of Plan administration, e.g., administered by contract, insurer, or Sponsor
- Eligibility terms, e.g., classes of eligible employees, employment waiting period, and hours per week, and the effective date of participation, e.g., next day or first of month following satisfaction of eligibility waiting period
- How insurer refunds (e.g., dividends, demutualization) are allocated to Participants.
 Note: This is important to obtain the small Plan (<100 Participants) exception for filing Form 5500.
- Plan Sponsor's amendment and termination rights and procedures, and what happens to Plan assets, if any, in the event of Plan Termination.

And.....

- Summary of any Plan provisions governing the benefits, rights, and obligations of Participants under the Plan on termination or amendment of Plan or elimination of benefits
- Summary of any Plan provisions governing the allocation and disposition of assets upon Plan termination
- Claims procedures—may be furnished separately in a Certificate of Coverage, provided that the SPD explains that claims procedures are furnished automatically, without charge, in the separate document (e.g., a Certificate of Coverage), and time limits for lawsuits, if the Plan imposes them.
- A statement clearly identifying circumstances that may result in loss or denial of benefits (e.g., subrogation, Coordination of Benefits, and offset provisions)
- The standard of review for benefit decisions (We recommend consideration of granting full discretion for Plan Administrator or authorized Fiduciary to interpret Plan and make factual determinations)
- ERISA model statement of Participants' rights
- The sources of Plan contributions, whether from employer and/or employee contributions, and the method by which they are calculated
- Interim SMMs since SPD was adopted or last restated
- The fact that the employer is a participating employer or a member of a controlled group
- Whether the Plan is maintained pursuant to one or more collective bargaining agreements,
 and that a copy of the agreement may be obtained upon request

And.....

- A prominent offer of assistance in a non-English language (depending on the number of participants who are literate in the same non-English language)
- Identity of insurer(s), if any
- Additional requirements for Group Health Plan SPDs:
 - Detailed description of Plan provisions and exclusions (e.g., copays, deductibles, coinsurance, eligible expenses, network provider provisions, prior authorization and utilization review requirements, dollar limits, day limits, visit limits, and the extent to which new drugs, preventive care, and medical tests and devices are covered) A link to network providers should also be provided. Plan limits, exceptions, and restrictions must be conspicuous.
 - Information regarding COBRA, HIPAA, and other federal mandates such as Women's Health Cancer Rights Act, preexisting condition exclusion, special enrollment rules, mental health parity, coverage for adopted children, Qualified Medical Support Orders, and minimum hospital stays following childbirth.
 - Name <u>and address</u> of health insurer(s), if any
 - Description of the role of health insurers (i.e., whether the Plan is insured by an insurance company or the insurance company is merely providing administrative services.

Distribution of the SPD

- Every 5 Years
- Within 30 days of written request
- Use of the Summary of Material Modifications

Methods of Distribution:

- Paper
- Electronic



ERISA Notices by Client Size <50

2-49 Employees

- SPD
- SMM and Summary Material Reduction in Covered Services
- Plan Documents
- Health Insurance Exchange Notice
- SBC
- Notice of Modification
- Disclosure of Grandfather Status
- Notice of Patient Protections
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCORI)
- Notice of Special Enrollment Rights
- Wellness Program Disclosure
- Notice of Privacy Practices
- WHCRA
- Mental Health
- CHIP
- Michelle's Law
- Newborns and Mothers Protections
- Medicare Part D

20-49 Employees

- General Notice of COBRA
- Notice of COBRA QE
- COBRA election notice
- Notice of unavailability of COBRA
- Notice of Underpayment of COBRA
- Notice of Early Termination of COBRA Coverage

ERISA Notices by Client Size 50+

50+ Employees

- SPD
- SMM and Summary Material Reduction in Covered Services
- Plan Documents
- Health Insurance Exchange Notice
- SBC
- Notice of Modification
- Disclosure of Grandfather Status
- Notice of Patient Protections
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCORI)
- Notice of Special Enrollment Rights
- Wellness Program Disclosure
- Notice of Privacy Practices
- WHCRA
- Mental Health
- CHIP
- Michelle's Law
- Newborns and Mothers Protections
- Medicare Part D

20+ Employees

- General Notice of COBRA
- Notice of COBRA QE
- COBRA election notice
- Notice of unavailability of COBRA
- Notice of Underpayment of COBRA
- Notice of Early Termination of COBRA Coverage

50+ Employees

- FMLA Notice
- Notice of FMLA Eligibility Rights
- FMLA Designation Notice
- •

100+ Participants

- Form 5500
- SAR

Notices & Requirements

All **employers**, <u>regardless of employee count</u>, are required to provide employees with annual notices regarding their rights as they relate to benefits throughout the year. In addition to providing notices to employees, some states are requiring employers to provide proof that notices are delivered to employees throughout the year.

42 Notices in 2014 / 52 Notices in 2015, based on IRS and DOL recommendations

ERISA-7 Parts of ERISA

Part 1: Reporting and

Disclosure

Part 4: Fiduciary

Responsibilities

Part 5: Administration and

Enforcement

Part 6: COBRA

Part 7: Group Health

Requirements

Mandated Coverage

QMCSO

Dependents

Mental Health

Financial Accounting

Standards Board (FASB)

Requirement

Statement 106

Statement 112

Statement 158

Other Federal Laws

Medicare Part D etc.

8 others

Employment Law Affecting

Group Health Plans

7 items

Key State Regulations



1094c/1095c Reporting



Small Employers

No Health
Plan
No
Reporting

FullyInsured
Plan
No
Reporting

Self-Insured File 1095-B only

50-99 FTEs Employers

No Health Plan File 1095-C parts I and II Fully-Insured Plan
File 1095-C
Parts I and II
(insurer files
1095-B)

Self-Insured
File 1095-C
Parts I, II
and III

Applicable Large Employers (100+)

No Health Plan File 1095-C parts I and II Fully-Insured Plan
File 1095-C
Parts I and II
(insurer files
1095-B)

Self-Insured
File 1095-C
Parts I, II
and III

120115

Form 1094-C

Transmittal of Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage Information Returns

CORRECTED

OMB No. 1545-2251

2014

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service ► Information about Form 1094-C and its separate instruction

Internal Revenue Service	Finiormation about Form 10	94-0 and its separate instructions i	3 at www.n3.govn10040.	
Part I Applicable	Large Employer Member (ALE Me	ember)		
1 Name of ALE Member (Employer)			2 Employer identification number (EIN)	
3 Street address (including	room or suite no.)			
<u> </u>				
4 City or town		5 State or province	6 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code	
7 Name of person to contact			8 Contact telephone number	
9 Name of Designated Government Entity (only if applicable)			10 Employer identification number (EIN)	
11 Street address (including	room or suite no.)			For Official Use Only
12 City or town		13 State or province	14 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code	
15 Name of person to contact			16 Contact telephone number	
17 Reserved				
18 Total number of Fo	rms 1095-C submitted with this transmi	ttal		
Part II ALE Memb	er Information			
19 Is this the authorita	tive transmittal for this ALE Member? If	"Yes," check the box and continu	ue. If "No," see instructions	
20 Total number of Fo	rms 1095-C filed by and/or on behalf of	ALE Member		
				Yes No
	ember of an Aggregated ALE Group?			TesNO
If "No," do not com	plete Part IV.			
22 Certifications of E	ligibility (select all that apply):			
A. Qualifying Offe	er Method B. Qualifying O	ffer Method Transition Relief	C. Section 4980H Transition Re	lief D. 98% Offer Method
Under penalties of perjury,	declare that I have examined this return and	d accompanying documents, and to t	he best of my knowledge and belief, they are t	rue, correct, and complete.
Signature		Title	D	ate
For Privacy Act and Pane	work Reduction Act Notice, see separate	instructions.	Cat. No. 61571A	Form 1094-C (2014

Form 1094-C (2014)

Page 2 Part III ALE Member Information—Monthly (a) Minimum Essential Coverage (e) Section 4980H (c) Total Employee Count (b) Full-Time Employee Count (d) Aggregated Offer Indicator Group Indicator for ALE Member for ALE Member Transition Relief Indicator Yes No All 12 Months 23 24 Jan Feb 25 Mar 26 27 Apr 28 May

Form 1095-C

Employer-Provided Health Insurance Offer and Coverage

VOID

600115

CORRECTED

OMB No. 1545-2251

Department of the Treasury ▶ Information about Form 1095-C and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/f1095c. Internal Revenue Service Applicable Large Employer Member (Employer) Part I Employee 8 Employer identification number (EIN) 1 Name of employee 2 Social security number (SSN) 7 Name of employer 10 Contact telephone number 9 Street address (including room or suite no.) 3 Street address (including apartment no.) 13 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code 6 Country and ZIP or foreign postal code 11 City or town 12 State or province 5 State or province 4 City or town **Employee Offer and Coverage** Part II Dec Sept Oct All 12 Months Mar Apr May June July Aug Nov 14 Offer of Coverage (enter required code) 15 Employee Share of Lowest Cost Monthly Premium, for Self-Only Minimum Value \$ \$ \$ \$ Coverage 16 Applicable Section 4980H Safe Harbor (enter code, if applicable) Part III **Covered Individuals** If Employer provided self-insured coverage, check the box and enter the information for each covered individual. (e) Months of Coverage (c) DOB (If SSN is (d) Covered (b) SSN (a) Name of covered individual(s) all 12 months not available) May Oct Nov Dec July Aug Sept Jan Feb Mar Apr June 18 19 20 21 22

Tips for filing

- 1. If no SSN, use the TIN
- 2. You can count your employees monthly or by payroll covering the month
- Have to count ALL employees including PT folks

TRACKING IS KEY AND CRITICAL – start NOW!!



Caution: Use and Misuse of Independent Contractors



Advantages to Independent Contractor Relationship

- Employer does not pay:
 - their share of Social Security and Medicare taxes;
 - unemployment taxes;
 - workers compensation premiums;
 - Employee benefits
- Worker not entitled to make Discrimination Claims.

DOL quotes one study which estimated employers can cut labor costs by 20-40% by misclassifying employees as independent contractors.

Employee v. Independent Contractor Tests

- Economic Realities Test (FLSA)
- IRS Control Tests
- Common law 12 Significant Factors –
 ERISA for benefit determination
- EEOC Guidance for applicability of discrimination laws





6) Department of Labor – Wage and Hour



FLSA Fair Labor Standards Act Basics



Must pay minimum wage;
Must pay overtime when owed;
Equal pay for equal work;
Child labor restrictions; and
Keeping wage and OT records.

DANGERS OF FLSA VIOLATIONS

PERSONAL LIABILITY:

Owners

President

Other Executives

HR Department



- Liable for:
 - Unpaid wages
 - Additional equivalent amount as liquidated damages
 - Attorney fees and court costs

FLSA

Exemption Tests – avoiding Overtime

Salary Level

• Earn at least \$455 a week (\$23,660 a year).

Salary Basis

 Predetermined amount earned regardless of quality or quantity of work.

Job Duties

• White Collar Exemptions.

FLSA "White Collar" Exemptions

Apply to:

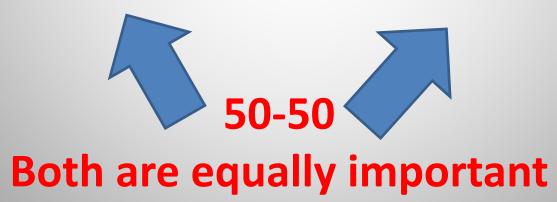
- 1. Executives
- 2. Administrative Employees
- 3. Professionals learned and creative
- 4. Outside Sales Employees
- 5. Computer Employees
- 6. Highly Compensated Employees

2 Sides of Compliance

- Disclosures
- Acknowledgements
- Notifications
- Signatures

Proof

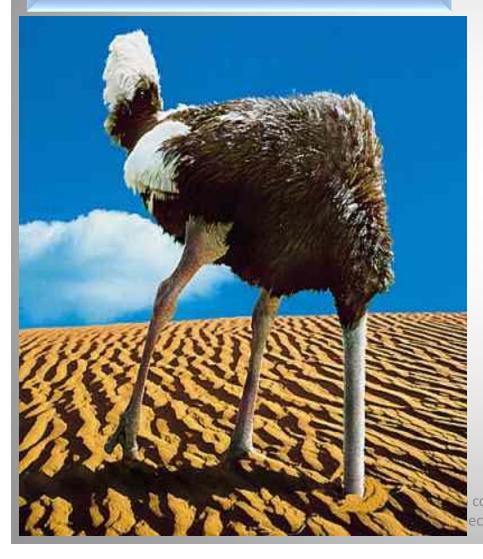
- Hours worked
- Hours off
- ☐ For whom did they work
- Type of employee
- Payroll Data



EMPLOYERS HAVE OPTIONS

Head in the sand.....

How do you eat an elephant?





Take Aways

- Know Your Size and Sandbox
- Recordkeeping is Key:
 - -1094C
 - 1905c
 - Marketplace Notice
 - Can you prove your size and your offerings??
 - Keep track of hours worked...
- Perform an internal HR audit on ALL aspects.
 - Erisa Wrap
 - Handbook updates
 - What else??
- Identify potential risks/liabilities and put a plan of action in place to resolve them.





Thank you!!



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