

New Health Insurance Marketplace Notice

Pursuant to the Affordable Care Act, regardless of whether you have health coverage, employers are required to send you a notice regarding the new Health Insurance Marketplace, otherwise known as the Exchange. The MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan is providing this notice to its participants on behalf of employers.

It is important for you to understand that if you have health coverage under the MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan, you are not required to purchase other health insurance coverage, through the Marketplace or otherwise, and there is nothing that you have to do to comply with the Affordable Care Act. The MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan provides high quality comprehensive coverage to its participants and their families.

The Marketplace is designed to help individuals without health coverage (and individuals who are eligible for coverage that does not meet quality and affordability standards) find health insurance that meets their needs and fits their budget. For those who do not otherwise have coverage, the Marketplace can help individuals evaluate and compare health coverage options, including eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. We are required to advise you that open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October 2013 for coverage starting January 1, 2014.

Some people who purchase a qualified health care option through the Marketplace may be eligible for a premium tax credit that lowers their monthly premium. However, if a person has an offer of health coverage through their employer that meets quality and affordability standards, the person will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace. Specifically, if the cost of a plan from an employer that would cover the employee (and not any other members of the person's family) does not exceed 9.5% of the person's household income for the year, and if the coverage meets the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, that person will not be eligible for any tax credit to purchase coverage through the Marketplace.¹ An individual may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace even if the employer intends the coverage to be affordable. **Your coverage under the MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan exceeds the minimum value standard and is affordable.**

Note: Payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

For more information about your coverage under the MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan, contact the Membership Services Department at the Plan Office at (410) 547-2422 or (800) 811-6322. For more information about the Marketplace, including eligibility and coverage options, you may visit HealthCare.gov.

Remember, because you are a participant in the MEBA Medical and Benefits Plan, there is nothing that you need to do to comply with the Affordable Care Act. This notice is for informational purposes only.

¹ An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.