

Notice of Prescription Drug Creditable Coverage **Chicago & Vicinity Laborers' District Council Health & Welfare Plan**

Important Information about Your Benefits and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

(For participants currently eligible for Medicare or those who may become eligible for Medicare)

Please read this Notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This Notice has information about prescription drug coverage under the Chicago & Vicinity Laborers' District Council Health & Welfare Plan (the "Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan") and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage.

If you are considering joining a Medicare drug plan, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

This Notice has information about:

- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage (Medicare Part D) that is available to everyone with Medicare.
- How the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan's existing prescription drug benefits are, on average for all Plan participants and their dependents, more generous than standard Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.
- What your choices are and what happens to your coverage under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan if you enroll for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.
- Where to find more information to help you make decisions about your prescription drug coverage.

This Notice explains the options you have under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and can help you decide whether you want to enroll. Please read this Notice carefully and keep it in a safe place for future reference.

There are two important things you need to know about the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan's coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare prescription drug plan or join a "Medicare Advantage Plan" (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. The Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan's existing prescription drug coverage is, on average, "creditable coverage," which means coverage under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan is, on average for all Plan participants, expected to pay out as much as a standard Medicare prescription drug plan. As a result, you can choose to stay covered under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan and not be subject to a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

Note: The Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan will continue to provide prescription drug coverage for all participants. You do **not** need to enroll in Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage since you have coverage available under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan.

When Can You Join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan?

Prescription drug coverage is available to anyone with Medicare (entitled to Part A or enrolled in Part B). Most people will have to pay a monthly premium for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. For people with limited income and assets, extra help paying for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is available. Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is insurance provided by private companies that has been approved by Medicare. Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is available through Medicare Advantage Plans (such as an HMO or PPO) and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans.

If you are entitled to Medicare Part A or enrolled in Medicare Part B, you can enroll for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th. If you lose or drop prescription drug coverage under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan, you may be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period to sign up for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. You can find out more detailed information about Special Enrollment Periods in the *Medicare & You* booklet sent to Medicare eligible individuals each fall.

What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you do not enroll in Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, you will continue to receive benefits under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan (as long as you are otherwise eligible to continue Plan coverage). Remember that the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan also provides medical and other benefits, in addition to prescription drug benefits. You will continue to be eligible to receive all current benefits for which you are eligible.

If you are eligible for Medicare, you can compare your current coverage, including which medications are covered, with the coverage and cost of the Medicare plans in your area.

If you are an active participant or a dependent of an active participant, are eligible, and enroll in Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, you will continue to be eligible to receive medical benefits under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan. However, your Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan benefits will be coordinated with Medicare, in accordance with Medicare's and the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan's coordination provisions.

Also, remember that for most people there is a monthly premium for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.

Note to Medicare-Eligible Individuals: If you drop or lose your coverage under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan and do not enroll for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage after your current coverage ends, you may pay more for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage later. If you go 63 days or longer without prescription drug coverage that is at least as good as Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, your monthly premium for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage may increase. The increase may be at least 1% per month for every month that you were eligible but did not have coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without coverage, your monthly premium may always be at least 19% higher than what most other people pay. You may have to pay this higher premium as long as you have Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the next open enrollment period (October 15th through December 7th each year) to enroll.

For More Information about Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer Prescription Drug Coverage is available in the *Medicare & You* handbook that Medicare publishes each fall and sends to Medicare beneficiaries. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare. You can also get more information about Medicare Prescription Drug Plans from the following resources:

- Visit www.medicare.gov for personalized help.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (the telephone number will be included in the *Medicare & You* handbook).
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage is available. Additional information is available from the Social Security Administration. To get more information about this extra help:

- Visit www.medicare.gov and www.socialsecurity.gov.
- Call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778).

If you qualify for extra help, contact the Fund Office for more information.

For More Information about this Notice or the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan

If you have any questions about this Notice or would like more information about your benefits under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan, please call the Fund Office at the number listed below.

In the future, the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan will periodically send you an updated copy of this Notice for your records. You also may request a copy of this Notice at any time by contacting the Fund Office.

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage Notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained Creditable Coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date: September 2023

Entity/Sender: The Chicago & Vicinity Laborers' District Council Health & Welfare Plan (Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan)

Contact: Fund Office

Address: 11465 Cermak Road, Westchester, Illinois 60154

Telephone Number: 1-708-562-0200

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1998 (WHCRA) – ANNUAL REMINDER

As required by the WHCRA, when the Plan provides benefits to an individual in connection with a mastectomy, the Plan also provided benefits to that individual for:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which a mastectomy is performed;
- Reconstruction surgery on the other breast to achieve a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses and physical complications for all stages of a mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

Please call the Fund Office at (708) 562-0200 or (866) 906-0200 or email the Fund Office at Claims@chilpwf.com for more information.

Benefits under the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan are not vested or guaranteed. Full details of the Chicago Laborers' Welfare Plan are contained in the documents that establish the Plan provisions. If there is a discrepancy between the wording here and the documents that establish the Plan, the document language will govern. The Trustees reserve the right to amend, modify, or discontinue all or part of the Plan at any time.