



# The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County

15093 Landfill Dr., Summerdale, AL, 36580  
Nicole Skelton, Plan Administrator, (251) 972-8548

Effective Date: October 1, 2024

Employee & Eligible Beneficiaries,

As an employee of The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County and participant in our employee benefit programs, you and your beneficiaries may have various rights and privileges related to these programs. Laws governing health care require us to provide you with these notifications. Listed below are important notices to retain for your records. If you have any questions please contact Nicole Skelton, Human Resources Director, The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County at: (251) 972-8548

**For individuals who elect to waive coverage, some of these notices will not apply to you. See the plan administrator for further details.**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### **MEDICARE PART D NOTICE**

**Medical Plan:** Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama

#### **About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare**

This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, 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.

There are two important things you need to know about your current 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. We have determined the prescription drug coverage offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore **considered Creditable Coverage**. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?**

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th to December 7th. Plan participants are eligible if they are within three months of turning age 65, are already 65 years old or if they are disabled. However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

### **What Happens to your Current Coverage if You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?**

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage will not be affected, and benefits will be coordinated with Medicare. Refer to your plan documents provided upon eligibility and open enrollment or contact your provider or the plan administrator for an explanation and/or copy of the prescription drug coverage plan provisions/options under the plan available to Medicare eligible individuals when you become eligible for Medicare Part D.

Visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CreditableCoverage/> which outlines the prescription drug plan provisions/options Medicare eligible individuals may have available to them when they become eligible for Medicare Part D.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and current coverage is dropped, be aware you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back. Refer to plan documents or contact your provider or the plan administrator before making any decisions.

**Note:** In general, different guidelines exist for retirees regarding cancelation of coverage and the ability to get that coverage back. Retirees who terminate or lose coverage will not be able to get back on the plan unless specific contract language or other agreement exists. Contact the plan administrator for details.

**When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?**

You should also know if you drop or lose your current coverage and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go 19 months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

**For more information about this notice or your current prescription drug coverage...**

Contact the person listed in this notifications report. You will get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next Medicare part D drug plan enrollment period and if this coverage changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

**For more information about your options under Medicare prescription drug coverage...**

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

**For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:** Visit [www.Medicare.gov](http://www.Medicare.gov) or call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside

back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help. Call 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). TTY users should call (877) 486-2048. If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call (800) 772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**Remember** to 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).

## **NOTIFICATIONS**

### **HIPAA**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that we notify you about important provisions in the plan. You have the right to enroll in the plan under its "special enrollment provision" provided that you meet participation requirements, if you marry, acquire a new dependent, or if you decline coverage under the plan for an eligible dependent while other coverage is in effect and later the dependent loses that other coverage for certain qualifying reasons. Special enrollment must take place within 30 days of the qualifying event. If you are declined enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) while coverage under Medicaid or a state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is in effect, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this program if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after you or your dependents' Medicaid or CHIP coverage ends. If you or your dependents (including your spouse) become eligible for a state premium assistance subsidy from Medicaid or a CHIP program with respect to coverage under this plan, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents (including your spouse) in this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after you or your dependents become eligible for the premium assistance. To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the plan administrator indicated in this notice.

### **HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices**

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") requires that we maintain the privacy of protected health information, give notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you and follow the terms of our notice currently in effect.

HIPAA regulations will be followed in administrative activities undertaken by assigned personnel when they involve protected health information (PHI) and e-PHI.

The company has adopted a policy that protects the privacy and confidentiality of PHI whenever it is used by company representatives. The private and confidential use of such information will be the responsibility of all individuals with job duties requiring access to PHI in the course of their jobs.

PHI refers to individually identifiable health information received by the company's group health plans and/or received by a health care provider, health plan or health care clearinghouse, and includes information regarding medical conditions, health status, claims experience, medical histories, physical examinations, genetic information and evidence of disability.

All information related to enrollment, changes in enrollment and payroll deductions, aiding in claims problem resolution and explanation of benefits issues, and assistance in coordination of benefits with other providers will be maintained in confidence. Employees shall not disclose PHI from these processes for employment-related actions, except as provided by administrative procedures approved by Human Resources.

The Company will consider any breaches in the privacy and confidentiality of handling of PHI to be serious, and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with our code of conduct.

Company records that are governed by this policy will be maintained for a period of no less than six years.

Questions or issues regarding PHI should be addressed with Human Resources.

You may request a copy of the current Privacy Practices from the Plan Administrator explaining how medical information about you may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to this information. ***As Required by Law.*** We will disclose Health Information when required to do so by international, federal, state or local law.

You have the right to inspect and copy, right to an electronic copy of electronic medical records, right to get notice of a breach, right to amend, right to an accounting of disclosures, right to request restrictions, right to request confidential communications, right to a paper copy of this notice and the right to file a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated.

### **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT NOTICE**

If you are declining enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage) provided that you meet participation requirements. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days or any longer period that applies under the plan, after you or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage). In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days or any longer period that applies under the plan,

after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. To request special enrollment or obtain more information, contact the plan administrator mentioned above.

### **GINA**

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not provide any genetic information when responding to any requests for medical information, if applicable. ‘Genetic information,’ as defined by GINA, includes an individual’s family medical history, the results of an individual’s or family member’s genetic tests, the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

### **WHCRA**

The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act (WHCRA) of 1998, provides benefits for mastectomy-related services including reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema). Call your health insurance issuer for more information.

This notice informs you of the Federal regulation that requires all health plans that cover mastectomies to also cover reconstruction of the removed breast. If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits. For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedemas.

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women’s Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator at the number listed above.

### **NMHPA**

Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act requires that group health plans and health insurance issuers who offer childbirth coverage generally may not, under federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother,

from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours). Refer to your plan document for specific information about childbirth coverage or contact your plan administrator.

For additional information about NMHPA provisions and how Self-funded non Federal governmental plans may opt-out of the NMHPA requirements, visit [http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/nmhpfa\\_factsheet.html](http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/nmhpfa_factsheet.html).

## **COBRA NOTICE**

This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the company plan. This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it. When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a Federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. It can also become available to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when they would otherwise lose their group health coverage. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

### **You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage.**

For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

### **What is COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage. Employees and their qualified dependents are responsible for notifying the Company of any change in address or status (e.g., divorce, insurance eligibility, child becoming ineligible due to age, etc.) within 30 days of the event.

Supporting documentation like a divorce decree, death certificate, proof of other insurance may be required as proof of a qualifying event.

This general notice does not fully describe COBRA or the plan. More complete information is available from the plan administrator and in the summary plan document.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your spouse dies;
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a dependent child.

### **When is COBRA Coverage Available?**

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, or the employee becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), the employee must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event.

**For all other qualifying events (divorce, or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), employees must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs.**

### **How is COBRA Coverage Provided?**

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an



independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to a total of 36 months. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

#### **Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of continuation coverage. Documentation from the Social Security administration certifying a disability will be required.

#### **Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if notice of the second qualifying event is properly given to the Plan. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children receiving continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated, or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child, but only if the event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

#### **Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?**

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage

options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

### **Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?**

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you>.

### **If you have questions**

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the plan administrator indicated above or in the summary plan description. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

### **Keep your Plan informed of address changes**

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

## YOUR RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS AGAINST SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

When you get emergency care or are treated by an out-of-network provider at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, you are protected from balance billing. In these cases, you shouldn't be charged more than your plan's copayments, coinsurance and/or deductible.

### **What is "balance billing" (sometimes called "surprise billing")?**

When you see a doctor or other health care provider, you may owe certain out-of-pocket costs, like a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible. You may have additional costs or have to pay the entire bill if you see a provider or visit a health care facility that isn't in your health plan's network.

"Out-of-network" means providers and facilities that haven't signed a contract with your health plan to provide services. Out-of-network providers may be allowed to bill you for the difference between what your plan pays and the full amount charged for a service. This is called "**balance billing**." This amount is likely more than in-network costs for the same service and might not count toward your plan's deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit.

"Surprise billing" is an unexpected balance bill. This can happen when you can't control who is involved in your care—like when you have an emergency or when you schedule a visit at an in-network facility but are unexpectedly treated by an out-of-network provider. Surprise medical bills could cost thousands of dollars depending on the procedure or service.

### **You are protected from balance billing for:**

#### **Emergency services**

If you have an emergency medical condition and get emergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, the most they can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount (such as copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles). You **can't** be balance billed for these emergency services. This includes services you may get after you're in stable condition, unless you give written consent and give up your protections not to be balance billed for these post-stabilization services.

#### **Certain services at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center**

When you get services from an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center, certain providers there may be out-of-network. In these cases, the most those providers can bill you is your plan's in-network cost-sharing amount. This applies to emergency medicine, anesthesia, pathology, radiology, laboratory, neonatology, assistant surgeon, hospitalist, or intensivist services. These providers **can't** balance bill you and may **not** ask you to give up your protections not to be balance billed.

If you get other types of services at these in-network facilities, out-of-network providers can't balance bill you, unless you give written consent and give up your protections.

**You're never required to give up your protections from balance billing. You also aren't required to get out-of-network care. You can choose a provider or facility in your plan's network.**

**When balance billing isn't allowed, you also have these protections:**

- You are only responsible for paying your share of the cost (like the copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles that you would pay if the provider or facility was in-network). Your health plan will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Generally, your health plan must:
  - Cover emergency services without requiring you to get approval for services in advance (also known as “prior authorization”).
  - Cover emergency services by out-of-network providers.
  - Base what you owe the provider or facility (cost-sharing) on what it would pay an in-network provider or facility and show that amount in your explanation of benefits.
  - Count any amount you pay for emergency services or out-of-network services toward your in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.

**If you think you've been wrongly billed**, contact 1-800-985-3059 the federal phone number for information and complaints.

Visit <https://www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers> for more information about your rights under federal law.

## **Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage**

### **General Information**

With the key parts of the health care law that took effect in 2014, there is a new way to buy health insurance: **the Health Insurance Marketplace**. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County.

### **What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?**

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away.

The Open Enrollment period each year is usually between the beginning of November to mid-January; this can sometimes vary by state. Individuals may also qualify for Special Enrollment Periods outside of

Open Enrollment if they experience certain events. (See [Special Enrollment Period](#) and [Qualifying Life Event](#)).

### **Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?**

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

### **Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?**

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you may not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace depending on the below factors and your household income. You may want to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 8.39% of your household income for the 2024 year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value"\* standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit. Beginning in 2021 with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and extended for tax years 2023-2026 by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the federal poverty ceiling is no longer capped at 100%-400%, and the applicable percentage of household income to qualify for a tax credit through the marketplace has been lowered to 8.5 %.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Additionally, the employer contribution, as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage, are often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

### **How Can I Get More Information?**

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact your employer.

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area. Residents of the following states must use the state-run health exchange, and more information about the state-specific sites can be found at <https://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace-in-your-state/>

CA, CO, CT, DC, ID, KY, MA, MD, ME, MN, NJ, NM, NV, NY, PA, RI, VT, WA

### **Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer**

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

1. Employer Name: The Solid Waste Disposal Authority of Baldwin County
2. Employer Identification Number (EIN): 93-1408508
3. Employer Address: 15093 Landfill Dr.
4. Employer phone number: (251) 972-8548
5. City: Summerdale
6. State: AL
7. ZIP code: 36580
8. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job: Nicole Skelton
9. Phone number for contact: (251) 972-8548
10. Email address: Nicole.Skelton@baldwincountyswda.org

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to: Eligible Employees.

Eligible employees are: Regular full-time employees who work an average of 30 or more hours per week).

- With respect to dependents: We do offer coverage to all eligible dependents.

Eligible dependents are: Legal spouse and dependent children of eligible employee.

**This coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.\***Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount. if you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, HealthCare.gov will guide you through the process.

\* 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.

\*\* Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

# PREMIUM ASSISTANCE UNDER MEDICAID AND THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren't eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won't be eligible for these premium assistance programs but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial 1-877-KIDS NOW or [www.insurekidsnow.gov](http://www.insurekidsnow.gov) to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance. If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at [www.askebsa.dol.gov](http://www.askebsa.dol.gov) or call 1-866-444-EBSA (3272).

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of January 31, 2024. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

## ALABAMA – MEDICAID

Website: <http://myalhipp.com/>  
Phone: 1-855-692-5447

## ALASKA – MEDICAID

The AK Health Insurance Premium Payment Program  
Website: <http://myakhipp.com/>  
Phone: 1-866-251-4861  
Email: [CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com](mailto:CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com)  
Medicaid Eligibility: <https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx>

## ARKANSAS – MEDICAID

Website: <http://myarhipp.com/>  
Phone: 1-855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)

## CALIFORNIA – MEDICAID

Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Website:  
<http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp>  
Phone: 916-445-8322  
Fax: 916-440-5676  
Email: [hipp@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:hipp@dhcs.ca.gov)

## COLORADO – HEALTH FIRST COLORADO (COLORADO'S MEDICAID PROGRAM) & CHILD HEALTH PLAN PLUS (CHP+)

Health First Colorado Website:  
<https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/>  
Health First Colorado Member Contact Center:  
1-800-221-3943/State Relay 711  
CHP+: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus>  
CHP+ Customer Service: 1-800-359-1991/State Relay 711  
Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI): <https://www.mycohibi.com/>  
HIBI Customer Service: 1-855-692-6442

## FLORIDA – MEDICAID

Website: <https://www.flmedicaidplerecovery.com/flmedicaidplerecovery.com/hipp/index.html>  
Phone: 1-877-357-3268

## GEORGIA – MEDICAID

GA HIPP Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp>  
Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 1  
GA CHIPRA Website: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra>  
Phone: 678-564-1162, Press 2

## INDIANA – MEDICAID

Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64  
Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/>  
Phone: 1-877-438-4479  
All other Medicaid  
Website: <https://www.in.gov/medicaid/>  
Phone: 1-800-457-4584

## IOWA – MEDICAID AND CHIP (HAWKI)

Medicaid Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members>  
Medicaid Phone: 1-800-338-8366  
Hawki Website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki>  
Hawki Phone: 1-800-257-8563  
HIPP Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp>  
HIPP Phone: 1-888-346-9562

## KANSAS – MEDICAID

Website: <https://www.kancare.ks.gov/>  
Phone: 1-800-792-4884 | HIPP Phone: 1-800-967-4660

## KENTUCKY – MEDICAID

Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP) Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx>

Phone: 1-855-459-6328

Email: [KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov](mailto:KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov)

KCHIP Website: <https://kynect.ky.gov>

Phone: 1-877-524-4718

Kentucky Medicaid Website: <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms>

## LOUISIANA – MEDICAID

Website: [www.medicaid.la.gov](http://www.medicaid.la.gov) or [www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp](http://www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp)

Phone: 1-888-342-6207 (Medicaid hotline) or

1-855-618-5488 (LaHIPP)

## MAINE – MEDICAID

Enrollment Website:

[https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en\\_US](https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=en_US)

Phone: 1-800-442-6003

TTY: Maine relay 711

Private Health Insurance Premium Webpage:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms>

Phone: 1-800-977-6740

TTY: Maine relay 711

## MASSACHUSETTS – MEDICAID & CHIP

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa>

Phone: 1-800-862-4840

TTY: 711

Email: [masspremassistance@accenture.com](mailto:masspremassistance@accenture.com)

## MINNESOTA – MEDICAID

Website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp>

Phone: 1-800-657-3739

## MISSOURI – MEDICAID

Website: <http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm>

Phone: 573-751-2005

## MONTANA – MEDICAID

Website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP>

Phone: 1-800-694-3084

Email: [HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov](mailto:HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov)

## NEBRASKA – MEDICAID

Website: <http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov>

Phone: 1-855-632-7633

Lincoln: 402-473-7000

Omaha: 402-595-1178

## NEVADA – MEDICAID

Medicaid Website: <http://dhcfp.nv.gov>

Medicaid Phone: 1-800-992-0900

## NEW HAMPSHIRE – MEDICAID

Website:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program>

Phone: 603-271-5218

Toll free number for the HIPP program: 1-800-852-3345, ext. 5218

## NEW JERSEY – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Medicaid Website:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/>

Medicaid Phone: 609-631-2392

CHIP Website:

<http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html>

CHIP Phone: 1-800-701-0710

## NEW YORK – MEDICAID

Website: [https://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/](https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/)

Phone: 1-800-541-2831

## NORTH CAROLINA – MEDICAID

Website: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

Phone: 919-855-4100

## NORTH DAKOTA – MEDICAID

Website: <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare>

Phone: 1-844-854-4825

## OKLAHOMA – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Website: <http://www.insureoklahoma.org>

Phone: 1-888-365-3742

## OREGON – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Website: <http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Phone: 1-800-699-9075

## PENNSYLVANIA – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Website:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx>

Phone: 1-800-692-7462

CHIP Website:

[Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) \(pa.gov\)](http://www.pa.gov)

CHIP Phone: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)

## RHODE ISLAND – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Website: <http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/>

Phone: 1-855-697-4347, or

401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte Share Line)

## SOUTH CAROLINA – MEDICAID

Website: <https://www.scdhhs.gov>

Phone: 1-888-549-0820

## SOUTH DAKOTA - MEDICAID

Website: <http://dss.sd.gov>

Phone: 1-888-828-0059

## TEXAS – MEDICAID

Website: [Health Insurance Premium Payment \(HIPP\) Program | Texas Health and Human Services](http://www.hhs.texas.gov)

Phone: 1-800-440-0493

## UTAH – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Medicaid Website: <https://medicaid.utah.gov/>

CHIP Website: <http://health.utah.gov/chip>

Phone: 1-877-543-7669

## VERMONT– MEDICAID

Website: [Health Insurance Premium Payment \(HIPP\) Program | Department of Vermont Health Access](http://www.hhs.vermont.gov)

Phone: 1-800-250-8427



## VIRGINIA – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Website: <https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select>  
<https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs>  
Medicaid/CHIP Phone: 1-800-432-5924

## WASHINGTON – MEDICAID

Website: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/>  
Phone: 1-800-562-3022

## WEST VIRGINIA – MEDICAID

Website: <https://dhr.wv.gov/bms/>  
<http://mywvhipp.com/>  
Medicaid Phone: 304-558-1700  
CHIP Toll-free phone: 1-855-MyWVHIP (1-855-699-8447)

## WISCONSIN – MEDICAID AND CHIP

Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm>  
Phone: 1-800-362-3002

## WYOMING – MEDICAID

Website: <https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/>  
Phone: 1-800-251-1269

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To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2024, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa)  
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)  
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, Ext. 61565

## PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately seven minutes per respondent. Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Office of Policy and Research, Attention: PRA Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-5718, Washington, DC 20210 or email [ebsa.opr@dol.gov](mailto:ebsa.opr@dol.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0137.

**OMB Control Number 1210-0137 (expires 1/31/2026)**