

HEALTH COVERAGE NOTICES

FOR YOUR FILES

This guide contains legal notices for participants in a group health plan(s) sponsored by the City of Grand Prairie. The notices included in this guide are:

- **CHIP Notice** that details coverage for children using premium assistance from Medicaid or CHIP.
- **Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage** that describes the Health Insurance Marketplace and eligibility and tax credit information.
- **Notice of Privacy Practices** that explains how the health care plan(s) protect your personal medical information.
- **Medicare Part D Notice** that provides information about how your current prescription drug coverage under the health care plan(s) is affected—and your options for coverage—when you become eligible for Medicare.
- **COBRA Rights Notice** that explains when you and your family may be able to temporarily continue coverage under the health care plan(s) if coverage would otherwise end for you.
- **Newborn & Mothers Health Protection Notice** that describes federal laws that govern benefits for hospital stays for mothers following the birth of child.
- **Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act** that summarizes the benefits available under your medical plan if you have had or are going to have a mastectomy.
- **Notice of Special Enrollment Rights** that explains when you can enroll in the health care plan(s) due to special circumstances.
- **60-Day Special Enrollment Period** that describes a special 60-day timeframe to elect or discontinue coverage.

IMPORTANT: If you or your dependents have Medicare or will become eligible for Medicare in the next 12 months, the Medicare Prescription Drug program gives you more choices about your prescription drug coverage. Please see pages 9 and 10 for more details.

CHIP NOTICE

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 City of Grand Prairie, 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.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed on the following page, 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, dial **1-877-KIDS NOW**, or visit 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 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, 2023. Contact your State for more information on eligibility.

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2023, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
www.dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
1-866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
www.cms.hhs.gov
1-877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, ext. 61565

State	Website/E-mail	Phone
Alabama (Medicaid)	http://www.myalhipp.com/	1-855-692-5447
Alaska (Medicaid)	Premium Payment Program: http://myakhipp.com/ Medicaid Eligibility: https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/default.aspx E-mail: CustomerService@MyAKHIPP.com	1-866-251-4861
Arkansas (Medicaid)	http://myarhipp.com/	1-855-692-7447
California (Medicaid)	http://dhcs.ca.gov/hipp hipp@dhcs.ca.gov	916-445-8322 916-440-5676 (fax)
Colorado (Medicaid and CHIP)	Medicaid: https://www.healthfirstcolorado.com/ CHIP: https://hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus HIBI: https://www.mycohibi.com/	1-800-221-3943 1-800-359-1991 1-855-692-6442 State relay 711
Florida (Medicaid)	https://www.flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html	1-877-357-3268

State	Website/E-mail	Phone
Georgia (Medicaid)	HIPP: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp CHIPRA: https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra	678-564-1162, press 1 678-564-1162, press 2
Indiana (Medicaid)	Healthy Indiana Plan for low-income adults 19-64: http://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/ All other Medicaid: https://www.in.gov/medicaid	1-877-438-4479 1-800-457-4584
Iowa (Medicaid and CHIP)	Medicaid: https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members CHIP: http://dhs.iowa.gov/Hawki HIPP: https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hipp	1-800-338-8366 1-800-257-8563 1-888-346-9562
Kansas (Medicaid)	https://www.kancare.ks.gov/	1-800-792-4884
Kentucky (Medicaid and CHIP)	Medicaid: https://chfs.ky.gov KI-HIPP: https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx KI-HIPP E-mail: KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov KCHIP: https://kidshealth.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx	1-855-459-6328 1-877-524-4718
Louisiana (Medicaid)	www.medicaid.la.gov www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp	1-888-342-6207 1-855-618-5488
Maine (Medicaid)	https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms https://www.mymaineconnection.gov/benefits/s/?language=e+n+US	Enroll: 1-800-442-6003 Private HIP: 1-800-977-6740 TTY: Maine relay 711
Massachusetts (Medicaid and CHIP)	https://www.mass.gov/masshealth/pa	1-800-862-4840 TTY: 617-886-8102
Minnesota (Medicaid)	https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/children-and-families/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/other-insurance.jsp	1-800-657-3739
Missouri (Medicaid)	http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm	573-751-2005
Montana (Medicaid)	http://dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP HSHIPPPProgram@mt.gov	1-800-694-3084
Nebraska (Medicaid)	http://www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov	1-855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
Nevada (Medicaid)	http://dhcfp.nv.gov/	1-800-992-0900
New Hampshire (Medicaid)	https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program	603-271-5218 or 1-800-852-3345, ext. 5218
New Jersey (Medicaid and CHIP)	Medicaid: http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/ CHIP: http://www.njfamilycare.org/index.html	Medicaid: 609-631-2392 CHIP: 1-800-701-0710
New York (Medicaid)	https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/	1-800-541-2831
North Carolina (Medicaid)	https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/	919-855-4100
North Dakota (Medicaid)	http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/	1-844-854-4825
Oklahoma (Medicaid and CHIP)	http://www.insureoklahoma.org	1-888-365-3742
Oregon (Medicaid)	http://healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/index-es.html	1-800-699-9075
Pennsylvania (Medicaid and CHIP)	Medicaid: https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/HIPP-Program.aspx CHIP: Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (pa.gov)	Medicaid: 1-800-692-7462 CHIP: 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)
Rhode Island (Medicaid and CHIP)	http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/	1-855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct RItE)
South Carolina (Medicaid)	https://www.scdhhs.gov	1-888-549-0820
South Dakota (Medicaid)	http://dss.sd.gov	1-888-828-0059
Texas (Medicaid)	http://gethipptexas.com/	1-800-440-0493
Utah (Medicaid and CHIP)	Medicaid: https://medicaid.utah.gov/ CHIP: http://health.utah.gov/chip	1-877-543-7669
Vermont (Medicaid)	https://dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program	1-800-250-8427
Virginia (Medicaid and CHIP)	https://www.coverva.org/en/famis-select https://www.coverva.org/en/hipp	1-800-432-5924
Washington (Medicaid)	https://www.hca.wa.gov/	1-800-562-3022
West Virginia (Medicaid)	https://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/ http://mywvhipp.com/	Medicaid: 304-558-1700 CHIP: 1-855-699-8447
Wisconsin (Medicaid and CHIP)	https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm	1-800-362-3002
Wyoming (Medicaid)	https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility/	1-800-251-1269

HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE COVERAGE OPTIONS AND YOUR HEALTH COVERAGE

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Since key parts of the health care law took effect in 2014, there is another 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 Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

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 tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Typically, you can enroll in a Marketplace health plan during the Marketplace's annual Open Enrollment period or if you experience a 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 will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish 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 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.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution — as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage — is 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 the Human Resources Department.

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

PART B: 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.

Employer name City of Grand Prairie		Employer Identification Number (EIN) 74-6000246	
Employer address 300 W Main Street		Employer phone number (972) 237-8189	
City Grand Prairie		State TX	City Grand Prairie
Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? City of Grand Prairie HR			
Phone number (if different from above)		E-mail address benefits@gptx.org	

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

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to eligible employees (employees working at least 30 hours per week). Refer to the plan documents or HR for specific eligibility questions.
- With respect to dependents, we offer coverage to eligible dependents (legal spouse, dependent children under 26 who is your dependent for federal income tax purposes at the time application for coverage of the child is made.) Refer to the plan documents or HR for specific eligibility questions.

If checked, 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, www.healthcare.gov will guide you through the process.

CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

OUR COMPANY'S PLEDGE TO YOU

This notice is intended to inform you of the privacy practices followed by the «*Group_Health_Plan_Name*» (the Plan) and the Plan's legal obligations regarding your protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The notice also explains the privacy rights you and your family members have as participants of the Plan. It is effective on «*Privacy_Practices_Date*».

The Plan often needs access to your protected health information in order to provide payment for health services and perform plan administrative functions. We want to assure the participants covered under the Plan that we comply with federal privacy laws and respect your right to privacy. *The City* requires all members of our workforce and third parties that are provided access to protected health information to comply with the privacy practices outlined below.

Protected Health Information

Your protected health information is protected by the HIPAA Privacy Rule. Generally, protected health information is information that identifies an individual created or received by a health care provider, health plan or an employer on behalf of a group health plan that relates to physical or mental health conditions, provision of health care, or payment for health care, whether past, present or future.

How We May Use Your Protected Health Information

Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, we may use or disclose your protected health information for certain purposes without your permission. This section describes the ways we can use and disclose your protected health information.

Payment. We use or disclose your protected health information without your written authorization in order to determine eligibility for benefits, seek reimbursement from a third party, or coordinate benefits with another health plan under which you are covered. For example, a health care provider that provided treatment to you will provide us with your health information. We use that information in order to determine whether those services are eligible for payment under our group health plan.

Health Care Operations. We use and disclose your protected health information in order to perform plan administration functions such as quality assurance activities, resolution of internal grievances, and evaluating plan performance. For example, we review claims experience in order to understand participant utilization and to make plan design changes that are intended to control health care costs.

However, we are prohibited from using or disclosing protected health information that is genetic information for our underwriting purposes.

Treatment. Although the law allows use and disclosure of your protected health information for purposes of treatment, as a health plan we generally do not need to disclose your information for treatment purposes. Your physician or health care provider is required to provide you with an explanation of how they use and share your health information for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations.

As permitted or Required by Law. We may also use or disclose your protected health information without your written authorization for other reasons as *permitted* by law. We are *permitted* by law to share information, subject to certain requirements, in order to communicate information on health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you, respond to a court order, or provide information to further public health activities (e.g., preventing the spread of disease) without your written authorization. We are also permitted to share protected health information during a corporate restructuring such as a merger, sale, or acquisition. We will also disclose health information about you when *required* by law, for example, in order to prevent serious harm to you or others.

Pursuant to Your Authorization. When required by law, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing your protected health information. Uses and disclosures not described in this notice will only be made with your written authorization. Subject to some limited exceptions, your written authorization is required for the sale of protected health information and for the use or disclosure of protected health information for marketing purposes. If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose information, you can later revoke that authorization to prevent any future uses or disclosures.

To Business Associates. We may enter into contracts with entities known as Business Associates that provide services to or perform functions on behalf of the Plan. We may disclose protected health information to Business Associates once they have agreed in writing to safeguard the protected health information. For example, we may disclose your protected health information to a Business Associate to administer claims. Business Associates are also required by law to protect protected health information.

To the Plan Sponsor. We may disclose protected health information to certain employees of *The City* for the purpose of administering the Plan. These employees will use or disclose the protected health information only as necessary to perform plan administration functions or as otherwise required by HIPAA, unless you have authorized additional disclosures. Your protected health information cannot be used for employment purposes without your specific authorization.

Your Rights

Right to Inspect and Copy. In most cases, you have the right to inspect and copy the protected health information we maintain about you. If you request copies, we will charge you a reasonable fee to cover the costs of copying, mailing, or other expenses associated with your request. Your request to inspect or review your health information must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. In some circumstances, we may deny your request to inspect and copy your health information. To the extent your information is held in an electronic health record, you may be able to receive the information in an electronic format.

Right to Amend. If you believe that information within your records is incorrect or if important information is missing, you have the right to request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information. Your request to amend your health information must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. In some circumstances, we may deny your request to amend your health information. If we deny your request, you may file a statement of disagreement with us for inclusion in any future disclosures of the disputed information.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your protected health information. The accounting will not include disclosures that were made (1) for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations; (2) to you; (3) pursuant to your authorization; (4) to your friends or family in your presence or because of an emergency; (5) for national security purposes; or (6) incidental to otherwise permissible disclosures.

Your request for an accounting must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. You may request an accounting of disclosures made within the last six years. You may request one accounting free of charge within a 12-month period.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request that we not use or disclose information for treatment, payment, or other administrative purposes except when specifically authorized by you, when required by law, or in emergency circumstances. You also have the right to request that we limit the protected health information that we disclose to someone involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as a family member or friend. Your request for restrictions must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. We will consider your request, but in most cases are not legally obligated to agree to those restrictions.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to receive confidential communications containing your health information. Your request for restrictions must be submitted in writing to the person listed below. We are required to accommodate reasonable requests. For example, you may ask that we contact you at your place of employment or send communications regarding treatment to an alternate address.

Right to be Notified of a Breach. You have the right to be notified in the event that we (or one of our Business Associates) discover a breach of your unsecured protected health information. Notice of any such breach will be made in accordance with federal requirements.

Right to Receive a Paper Copy of this Notice. If you have agreed to accept this notice electronically, you also have a right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us upon request. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, please contact the person listed below.

Our Legal Responsibilities

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information, provide you with this notice about our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information and notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured protected health information.

We may change our policies at any time and reserve the right to make the change effective for all protective health information that we maintain. In the event that we make a significant change in our policies, we will provide you with a revised copy of this notice. You can also request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, contact the person listed below.

If you have any questions or complaints, please contact:

*City of Grand Prairie HR
City of Grand Prairie
300 W Main St
Grand Prairie, TX 75050
(972) 237-8189 / benefits@gptx.org*

Complaints

If you are concerned that we have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your records, you may contact the person listed above. You also may send a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Office of Civil Rights. The person listed above can provide you with the appropriate address upon request or you may visit www.hhs.gov/ocr for further information. You will not be penalized or retaliated against for filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights or with us.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE ABOUT YOUR PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE AND MEDICARE

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with City of Grand Prairie 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. The City has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by The City plan 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.

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 The City coverage will be affected. If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current The City coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with The City 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 nineteen 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 below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through The City 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.
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- 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. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

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: 01/01/2024

Name of Entity/Sender: City of Grand Prairie

Contact/Office: The City of Grand Prairie HR Department

Address: 300 W Main Street, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Phone Number: (972) 237-8189

GENERAL NOTICE OF COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS

This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains Public Sector 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 and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. 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 it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." 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.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of one of the following qualifying events:

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

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of one of the following qualifying events:

- 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 of the following qualifying events:

- 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 continuation 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. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

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), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to the Human Resource Department

How is COBRA continuation 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 that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a 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 COBRA continuation coverage.

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

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 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 the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying 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, Medicare, Medicaid, **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**, 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.

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 contact or contacts identified below. More information about your Public Sector COBRA rights through the Centers for Consumer Information and Oversight (CCIIO), available at www.cms.gov/ccio/

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.

For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov.

Plan contact information

Date: 01/01/2024

Name of Entity/Sender: City of Grand Prairie

Contact/Office: The City of Grand Prairie HR Department

Address: 300 W Main Street, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Phone Number: (972) 237-8189

OTHER NOTICES

60-DAY SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD

In addition to the qualifying events listed in this document, you and your dependents will have a special 60-day period to elect or discontinue coverage if:

- You or your dependent's Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage is terminated as a result of loss of eligibility; or
- You or your dependent becomes eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS

If you decline enrollment in medical coverage for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself or your dependents in City of Grand Prairie medical coverage if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing toward your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment no more than 30 days after your or your dependent's other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing to the other coverage). In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption, you can enroll yourself and your dependents in The City medical coverage as long as you request enrollment by contacting the benefits manager no more than 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption. For more information, contact The City of Grand Prairie HR Department at mwynn@gptx.org.

NEWBORN & MOTHERS HEALTH PROTECTION NOTICE

For maternity hospital stays, in accordance with federal law, the Plan does not 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 delivery.

However, federal law generally does not prevent the mother's or newborn's attending care provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours, as applicable). The plan cannot require a provider to prescribe a length of stay any shorter than 48 hours (or 96 hours following a Cesarean delivery).

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER RIGHTS ACT OF 1998

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). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultations with the attending physician and the patient, for:

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

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles, copays and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under your medical plan. For more information on WHCRA benefits, contact the Human Resources Department or your medical plan administrator.