

MEMORANDUM

To:

From:

Date: August 28, 2013

Re: Required Notice Concerning the Health Insurance Marketplace

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires the establishment of State Health Insurance Marketplaces (previously referred to as Health Insurance Exchanges) by January 1, 2014. The ACA mandates that open enrollment for obtaining health insurance coverage through the Marketplaces will begin by October 1, 2013.

The ACA requires employers to provide their employees with the enclosed notice about the availability of other health insurance through the Exchanges/Marketplaces. **If you are covered by the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 Welfare Plan (Local 17 Welfare Fund) you may disregard this notice.** This is because your coverage under the Fund substantially exceeds all the minimum coverage standards established by the ACA. In addition, the Local 17 Welfare Fund's coverage for you and your dependents would be considered "affordable" under the ACA since coverage is 100% employer funded (there is no member contribution required for either the employee or dependent). For these reasons, if you did enroll in the State exchange, you would not be eligible to receive any federal subsidies or tax credits.

Local 17 members who are not currently covered by the Welfare Fund should review the notice and may wish to investigate obtaining individual insurance through the Marketplace. For example, if you have lost or are losing your eligibility under the Welfare Fund due to a reduction in hours worked, the Marketplace may be a viable option for obtaining health insurance coverage for you and your family. For instance, it could be more affordable than the COBRA coverage that is offered by the Fund at the time your coverage with the Fund runs out.

If you have any questions about this notice or about your coverage under the Local 17 Welfare Plan, please contact the Fund Office at 708-468-8000.