

COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE NOTICE

Coordination of the New York State (NYS) Continuation Assistance Program with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Premium Reduction

The NYS Continuation Assistance Program provides for the payment of a subsidy equal to 50% of the COBRA premium due for eligible entertainment industry employees. ARRA reduces the COBRA premium due for assistance eligible individuals by 65% for up to 15 months. This notice explains the options available to individuals who are eligible for both types of assistance.

Individuals eligible for both the NYS Continuation Assistance Program and the ARRA premium reduction may choose to receive both COBRA premium subsidies at the same time, or they may choose to defer the NYS subsidy until they have received up to 15 months of the ARRA reduction.

The NYS Continuation Assistance Program may be utilized by eligible individuals as follows:

1. If an eligible individual elects to receive both subsidies at the same time, NYS will pay the 35% of COBRA premium due that remains after the 65% ARRA reduction has been applied. If that person continues on COBRA after the ARRA reduction expires, NYS will then pay 50% of the COBRA premium due until the individual has received 12 NYS subsidy payments or goes off of COBRA, whichever comes first.
2. If an eligible individual receives the ARRA premium reduction for the full 15 month period, and then applies for and is accepted into the NYS program, NYS will pay the 50% subsidy for up to 12 months, or until they go off of COBRA, whichever comes first.

For more information about the NYS subsidy, contact the NYS Continuation Assistance Program at 518-486-6107 or email 'cobraprogram@ins.state.ny.us'. If you have questions about this notice, your rights under COBRA continuation coverage, or your eligibility for the ARRA premium reduction, you should contact the Participants Services Department at 1-800-562-4690 or write to us at the following address:

AFTRA Health Fund
261 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Attention: Eligibility Department