



COBRA CONTINUATION COVERAGE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE EXTENSION NOTICE

February 10, 2010

This notice contains important information about additional rights to continue your health care coverage in the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) created a 9-month COBRA subsidy for employees and their dependents who lost group health plan coverage due to the employee's involuntary termination of employment between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. In December 2009, Congress passed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010 (DDAA), which increased the maximum period for receiving the subsidy an additional six months (from 9 to 15 months), and applied the subsidy to involuntary terminations through February 28, 2010.

If you were enrolled in NYSHIP COBRA as of October 31, 2009, and receiving the premium subsidy provided for by ARRA, your period for receiving the subsidy was automatically extended. The subsidy will continue to apply for the maximum of 15 months as long you otherwise remain eligible for the premium reduction.

The enclosed "*Summary of the COBRA Premium Reduction Provisions Under ARRA, as Amended*" and "*COBRA Continuation Coverage and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Frequently Asked Questions, as Amended*" provide more detailed information regarding the COBRA premium subsidy.

If you have any questions about this notice or your eligibility for the premium reduction, you may contact:

New York State Department of Civil Service
Employee Benefits Division – COBRA Unit
Alfred E. Smith State Office Building
Albany, NY 12239

Telephone: 518-457-5754 (Albany area)
Toll-free: 1-800-833-4344 (U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico or Virgin Islands)