THE BENEFIT

Housing Benefits Plan (HBP) is the medical plan provided to you by your housing authority. It is directed by housing authority Executive Directors from across Southeast and Southwest NAHRO for the benefit of housing authorities.

Housing BenefitsPlan
Sponsored by SERC/SWRC
medical•dental•vision•life•long term disability

September 2022

Please share this with all of your HBP employees, retirees, and COBRA members. Also share with the ED, HR, and Finance.

Childhood and Adult Immunizations

Polio is spreading in some countries. It is important for children to be up to date on all childhood immunizations. The flu may come early, and members are encouraged to get their shots now. UHC reports that flu and COVID shots may be received at the same time.

Upcoming Webinar Trainings

Tues. Sept. 20, 10am (EST) **Topic:** Creating Passion & Motivation at Work

Tues. Oct. 18, 10am (EST) **Topic:** Addressing Performance Concerns

Find previous webinar recordings at https://www.housingbp.com/links-2

Open Enrollment 2023— Everybody Completes A Form

As mentioned in the last newsletter, employees will have an active enrollment period this year, which means everyone will need to fill out a form - whether you want to keep the same benefits, change to a different plan, or decline benefits. As you have done in the past, you will fill out a form and hand it to your housing authority contact. There will be slight changes to the form, so read it carefully when you receive it from your executive director or HR manager.

Executive directors and HR managers will receive training on SIMON®, the new benefits administration platform provided by **Vimly**. While the platform is built for ease of use, training will be provided for you the **week of October 17th**. Be on the lookout for the calendar invite to attend this training which will be forwarded to you from **Mercer**. Post training, you will have a dedicated **Vimly** customer success team to assist you with additional questions and support needed. You will be sent the contact information for this dedicated team soon.

Check Your Bill Monthly

Please review your bill on the website, IBA 2.0 Login (mercer.com) **each month**. Examine it carefully each time a change is made, to assure that members are correctly enrolled or terminated. If anything is incorrect, please contact Mercer's Client Services **immediately** at ClientServices_Billing3@mercer.com. With the exception of Texas which does not allow retro terminations, any mistakes found can only be corrected up to 60 days back, no matter when the error occurred or who made it.

Timely Bill Payments Required

Housing authorities that fail to pay their bill within the 60-day grace period will be terminated for non-payment.

2023 Benefit & Rate Information

Housing authorities should be watching for an Open Enrollment email from Mercer. Each of you should be receiving this 2023 benefit and rate information in early October.

Transparency in Coverage

Under the "Transparency in Coverage" rules, HBP's insurer, United Healthcare (UHC), is required to make public certain "machine-readable files" showing (1) in-network negotiated payment rates, (2) historical out-of-network allowed amounts, and (3) in-network rates and historical costs for prescription drugs. (NOTE: The requirement to provide this third file is not yet effective). As required UHC has posted these files on their website. For your convenience, the link to the "machine-readable files" is provided below and also on the Links page of HBP's website.

transparency-in-coverage.uhc.com

The files you are looking for on this site are files 51503 and 51504, UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company Choice plus. Keep in mind that these files can be up to one terabyte in size, so system capacity and memory should be checked before downloading them. They are machine readable JSON files, not easily interpreted or searchable. To open them you may need to search for free applications supporting the download and viewing of JSON files. This can be a time consuming, difficult task. You may prefer to wait for a member-friendly consumer price transparency tool that will be available in 2023 and 2024.

COVID-19 Resources

Click on the link for the **most current UHC COVID-19 information.** https://www.uhc.com/health-and-wellness/health-topics/covid-19 Visit www.myuhc.com/covid for **up-to-date plan and benefit information**.

The HBP website at www.housingbp.com provides more information and helpful links.

Questions or comments? Email us at hbp@callhsa.com or call 1-800-288-7623, option 5.