



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

UPDATE #12 MPI ONGOING ANALYSIS (UPDATE 4-6-2020)

Dear Members,

I had hoped by today I would be able to provide you with specific information regarding the analysis being done of participants in the MPI Plans who may fall short of hours to allow for continuing health coverage. The analysis is on-going and we are still hopeful to reach an agreement that will provide for the active participants who would have otherwise qualified for continuing health coverage had it not been circumvented by the fallout from this pandemic. This is still being worked on, and I assure you we are very cognizant of the fact that any positive information on this will serve to provide great relief to those of you caught in this conundrum. I wish for nothing more than to be able to relay good news to you.

As I indicated previously, there are over 53,000 participants in the active health plan. The directors are analyzing how many participants may fall short of hours, and the costs associated with implementing changes that will enable the maximum number of participants to not experience an interruption in their health care. Based on hours reported at the end of March, Local 700 has 7,537 active participants in the Plan. Of those, 79% have a full bank of hours translating to 5,954 members. If we add in those who are on a bank of hours extension (bridging two unifying periods) and those who have hours being credited while on disability, our percent jumps to 86%. This means coverage through May 2021. This leaves us concerned for the 14% who have coverage now, but have limited ability to gain additional hours. In addition, there are those who aren't going to qualify, but had some hours in and can't secure employment now due to the pandemic.

The actuaries of the MPI Plans have been working diligently to provide the most precise and accurate information to the IA leadership and employer-representatives serving on the Board of Directors so a mutual resolution can be achieved. The moment I am advised of the agreed upon accommodation, I will send something out immediately.

Meanwhile, please know this is a top priority for all of us.

With best wishes and in solidarity,

Cathy Repola
National Executive Director

Keep updated with information pertaining to the coronavirus: www.editorsguild.com/coronavirus-information

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