

## Extension of ARRA COBRA Premium Assistance

The qualification period for the federal subsidy of COBRA premium under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has been extended as a result of a law enacted on April 15, 2010. The new law **extends eligibility** to individuals who experience a COBRA qualifying event that is an involuntary termination of employment that occurs **through May 31, 2010**. This also includes people who previously experienced a loss of coverage due to a reduction in hours, and are subsequently involuntarily terminated between March 2, 2010 and May 31, 2010.

Further information regarding COBRA Continuation Coverage Assistance under ARRA can be found on the U.S. Department of Labor website at <http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html> .

Broadcast Messages

Message #: 00132

For NY/PE Agencies

Recently enacted NYS Law Extending Dependent Child Eligibility through Age 29

We are aware that many questions are arising regarding this new legislation extending health insurance coverage to young adult dependents, therefore we are providing you with the following details to assist in answering these questions:

Coverage for young adult dependents will be 'COBRA-like' coverage in that it will be at the Full Share Individual rate, and each dependent will enroll in their own individual policy.

This benefit will be implemented for coverage beginning January 1, 2010.

Coverage for young adults applies only to medical benefits. Enrollment in the NYS Dental and Vision Plans is not available through this benefit.

There will be an initial 12 month Open Enrollment Period (January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010), followed by an Annual Open Enrollment Period to be determined.

Enrollments will be processed directly through the Employee Benefits Division, similar to the existing process for COBRA enrollees.

Information regarding this benefit will be sent to all enrollees and agencies by November 1, 2009.

We will continue to advise you as more details become available