MICHIANA AREA ELECTRICAL WORKERS' FRINGE BENEFIT FUNDS

Michiana Area Electrical Workers' Health and Welfare Fund Michiana Area Electrical Workers' Pension Fund Michiana Area Electrical Workers' Money Purchase Plan

Managed for the Trustees by: TIC INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

September 2010

TO: ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE MICHIANA AREA ELECTRICAL WORKERS' HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

RE: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
Offer Free Or Low-Cost Health Coverage To Children And Families

Dear Participant:

If you are eligible for health coverage from your employer, but are unable to afford the premiums, some States have premium assistance programs that can help pay for coverage. These States use funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs to help people who are eligible for employer-sponsored health coverage, but need assistance in paying their health premiums.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, you can contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or **www.insurekidsnow.gov** to find out how to apply. If you qualify, you can ask the State if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

Once it is determined that you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, your employer's health plan is required to permit you and your dependents to enroll in the plan – as long as you and your dependents are eligible, but not already enrolled in the employer's plan. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance**.

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If you live in one of the States listed on the attached, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The enclosed list of States is current as of April 16, 2010. You should contact your State for further information on eligibility –

To see if any more States have added a premium assistance program since April 16, 2010, or for more information on special enrollment rights, you can contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration <u>www.dol.gov/ebsa</u> 1-866-444-EBSA (3272) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services www.cms.hhs.gov 1-877-267-2323, Ext. 61565

Sincerely,

Michiana Area Electrical Workers' Health and Welfare Fund Board of Trustees

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