

STAFF PROPOSED SEP RELATED TO HEALTHCARE4CHILDCARE

June 9, 2023

DESCRIPTION: A new special enrollment period (SEP) will be available to HealthCare4Childcare eligible employees of child development centers and homes licensed by the District's Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), and their dependents, allowing them to enroll in coverage or change plans through the SHOP or Individual/Family markets at any point during the year.

BACKGROUND: In the summer of 2022, the Council passed the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund Amendment Act of 2022, which authorizes a portion of funds from the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund to be used to reduce health insurance premiums paid by child development facilities or eligible employees of child development facilities. The Act also authorized the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE), which administers the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund, to partner with DCHBX. DCHBX launched the HealthCare4ChildCare program in the fall of 2022, enrolling employees of OSSE-licensed facilities in coverage beginning in January 2023.

- HealthCare4ChildCare provides free health insurance through DC Health Link for District residents (and their families) who are employees of OSSE licensed child development centers and homes.
- HealthCare4ChildCare provides free health insurance or lower premiums through DC Health Link for non-District residents who are employees of OSSE licensed child development centers and homes choosing to participate in HealthCare4ChildCare.

Outreach to facilities and their staff has been ongoing, and has included emails, phone calls, and in-person site visits. We have partnered with trusted voices in the community to hold town halls and otherwise spread the word about the availability of free and low-cost premium health insurance. Most recently, we have awarded grants to community-based organizations to further provide outreach, continuing our enrollment efforts.

Up to this point, DCHBX has been using the SEP associated with the public health emergency to process enrollments. With the PHE ending on May 11, 2023, that SEP will end in July. To provide the continuing opportunity to enroll, we require a new SEP. The year-round availability is to ensure that employees and their dependents can enroll into the free or low-cost health insurance available through the HealthCare4ChildCare program without delay. In some cases, an employee may have already been enrolled in the Individual/Family or SHOP marketplaces but needs to change plans to be eligible for HealthCare4ChildCare.