

CONTENT AREA

ADOA Notification to COBRA-eligible individuals of premium assistance

ISSUE/QUESTION

When will the COBRA notices for employees affected by the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) be mailed?

ANSWER

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 requires employers to notify COBRA-eligible individuals about the availability of premium assistance. Premium assistance is available to employees whose employment was involuntarily terminated between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009.

Those notified of their right to COBRA coverage prior to March 30, 2009 must receive an additional notification describing premium assistance and the 60-day special election period. These notifications will be mailed by the ADOA Benefit Services Division beginning April 1, 2009 and ending no later than April 18, 2009.

Those individuals terminated in the future (or those terminated prior to March 30, 2009 who have not received any COBRA notifications) must receive notification of their right to COBRA and the availability of premium assistance. These notifications will be mailed by the ADOA Benefit Services Division as needed through the end of the premium assistance program.

Copies of the notifications, along with enrollment forms and answers to frequently asked questions can be viewed at the Benefit Options website: www.benefitoptions.az.gov/cobra.asp

ISSUED

March 30, 2009