

Service • Efficiency • Value

Janet Phipps, Director

## NOTICE REGARDING WELLNESS PROGRAM

Healthy Opportunities Wellness Program is a voluntary wellness program available to SPOC-covered employees. The program is administered according to federal rules permitting employer-sponsored wellness programs that seek to improve employee health or prevent disease, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as applicable, among others. If you choose to participate in the wellness program, you will be asked to complete a voluntary health risk assessment or "HRA" that asks a series of questions about your health-related activities and behaviors and whether a doctor has ever diagnosed you with certain medical conditions (e.g., cancer, diabetes, or heart disease). You will also be asked to complete a biometric screening, which will include a blood test assessing cholesterol, triglycerides, and glucose. You are not required to complete the HRA or to participate in the blood test or other medical examinations.

However, employees who choose to participate in the wellness program will receive an incentive. SPOC-covered employees can reduce the amount of their health insurance premium contribution by \$70.00 per month for completing a biometric screening and an online health assessment. Employees identified as a candidate for telephonic coaching from the 2019 Healthy Opportunities Wellness Campaign, must complete six coaching calls with a WebMD health coach before June 30, 2019. Although you are not required to complete the HRA or participate in the biometric screening, only employees who do so will receive the incentive.

The information from your HRA and the results from your biometric screening will be used to provide you with information to help you understand your current health and potential risks. You also are encouraged to share your results or concerns with your own doctor.

## **Protections from Disclosure of Medical Information**

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your personally identifiable health information. Although the wellness program and the State of Iowa may use aggregate information it collects to design a program based on identified health risks in the workplace, the Healthy Opportunities Wellness Program will never disclose any of your personal information either publicly or to your employing agency, except as necessary to respond to a request from you for a reasonable accommodation needed to participate in the wellness program, or as expressly permitted by law. Medical information that personally identifies you that is provided in connection with the wellness program will not be provided to your supervisors or managers and may never be used to make decisions regarding your employment.

Your health information will not be sold, exchanged, transferred, or otherwise disclosed except to the extent permitted by law to carry out specific activities related to the wellness program, and you will not be asked or required to waive the confidentiality of your health information as a condition of participating in the wellness program or receiving an incentive. Anyone who receives your information for purposes of providing you services as part of the wellness program will abide by the same confidentiality requirements. The only individual who will receive your personally identifiable health information is a WebMD health coach, only if you are identified to participate in telephonic health coaching, in order to provide you with services under the wellness program.

In addition, all medical information obtained through the wellness program will be maintained separate from your personnel records, information stored electronically will be encrypted, and no information you provide as part of the wellness program will be used in making any employment decision. Appropriate precautions will be taken to avoid any data breach, and in the event a data breach occurs involving information you provide in connection with the wellness program, we will notify you immediately.

You may not be discriminated against in employment because of the medical information you provide as part of participating in the wellness program, nor may you be subjected to retaliation if you choose not to participate.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this notice, or about protections against discrimination and retaliation, please contact the Healthy Opportunities Wellness Program at <a href="healthy.opportunities@iowa.gov">healthy.opportunities@iowa.gov</a>.