

OUTSTATE MICHIGAN TROWEL TRADES FRINGE BENEFIT FUNDS

Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Health & Welfare Fund
Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Pension Fund
O.P.C.M.I.A. Apprenticeship Fund

November 2005

Important Notice About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

TO: ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE OUTSTATE MICHIGAN TROWEL TRADES
HEALTH & WELFARE FUND

RE: MEDICARE PART D – PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug coverage for everyone with Medicare.

Good news! The Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Health and Welfare Fund provides “Creditable Coverage.” This means that if you or your dependents are Medicare-eligible and your family is covered by the Fund because you are working with the tools, you and/or your Medicare-eligible dependents may delay enrollment in a Medicare prescription drug plan **without penalty. You don’t need both types of coverage.**

What is Creditable Coverage? Creditable Coverage is coverage that is, on average for Fund participants, expected to pay out as much as the standard Medicare prescription drug coverage.

When do I enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage to avoid a penalty? Medicare-eligible individuals should enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage no more than 62 days after losing or dropping their Creditable Coverage. If after May 15, 2006, a Medicare-eligible individual goes 63 days or longer without Creditable Coverage, his or her monthly premium will go up at least 1% per month for every month that he or she did not have that coverage. The individual will have to pay that higher premium so long as he or she has Medicare prescription drug coverage. The individual may also have to wait until the following November to enroll.

What happens when I retire? The Fund provides retiree coverage (including prescription drug coverage that is Creditable Coverage) only to those retirees who are **not** eligible for Medicare. If you have retired and you become eligible for Medicare, the Fund will no longer provide medical or prescription drug coverage to you or your family. If you are retired, you should consider enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan when you become eligible for Medicare. You can find more information about Medicare prescription drug plans through the following resources:

- the “Medicare & You 2006” handbook that is being mailed to individuals with Medicare,
- the www.medicare.gov website,
- the Michigan State Health Insurance Assistance Program at 1-800-803-7174 and
- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), TYY 1-877-486-2048.

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If you have limited income and resources, you may be eligible for extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage. For more information about this extra help, contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), or through its website, www.socialsecurity.gov.

What if I have questions? If you have questions about the Fund's prescription drug coverage and Medicare prescription drug coverage, contact the Fund Office, 6525 Centurion Drive, Lansing, MI 48917, 1-517-321-7502, 1-877-876-9357. We will do our best to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can.

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Keep this notice. It will provide proof to Medicare of Creditable Coverage when you enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. You may receive this notice at other times in the future such as before the next period you can enroll in Medicare prescription drug coverage, and if the Fund's prescription drug coverage changes. You also may request a copy of this notice.

Sincerely,

Outstate Michigan Trowel Trades Health and Welfare Fund
Board of Trustees