

## ATTENTION

### Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

**GOOD NEWS!** If you missed the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 application deadline for Healthcare Premium Assistance (HCPA) there is another opportunity to apply!

If you **HAVE NOT** previously applied for HCPA, or you feel you were denied in error, or you did not receive the initial stipend issued March 13, 2023 and currently do not have health coverage and are not eligible for [Medicaid \(HUSKY\)](#) or [Covered CT](#) **APPLY NOW!**

A second round of HCPA applications will be accepted up to and including **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, for payment by May 1, 2023. See attached application for Sunset Shores and /or visit [Allied Healthcare Premium Application](#) for Allied.

The HCPA under the Collective Bargaining Agreement provides funds that can be used to purchase an insurance plan on the Access Health CT exchange., cover out-of-pocket medical costs or other expenses.

The PCA Workforce Council worked in collaboration with **Access Health CT (AHCT)** to offer a **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD (SEP)** for PCAs to purchase a plan on the Health Insurance Exchange.

- The Access Health CT (AHCT) Special Enrollment Period (SEP) will run from **March 15, 2023 - May 15, 2023**.
- Beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, AHCT will have a dedicated phone line [\(844\) 589-3612](tel:8445893612) that will feature a message specific to PCAs.
- AHCT has requested that callers identify themselves as PCAs and state that they are calling regarding the PCA SEP.

**Step 1:** Call Access Health at [\(844\) 589-3612](tel:8445893612) or go to [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com)

**The application you submit for health insurance here will assess your eligibility for [Medicaid \(HUSKY\)](#), [Covered CT](#), or a plan on the Health Insurance Exchange.**

*\* When applying be sure to check the box or indicate that you would like to apply for financial assistance, this will ensure you are reviewed for all of the available health insurance groups mentioned above.*

Checklist of information you will need to apply:

- **Date of Birth** and **Social Security** number for all family members that need coverage.
- **Projected Annual Income** (include upcoming bonuses or raises and income from all sources not just your PCA work).

**Step 2:** If you are eligible for Medicaid (HUSKY) or Covered CT, you are not eligible for the Premium Assistance Contribution benefit.

**If you are NOT eligible for Medicaid (HUSKY) or Covered CT, save the denial letter.**

You will use the denial letter as part of your application submitted to the fiscal intermediaries for the HCPA benefit. NOTE: Your notice from AHCT will *not* say you are ineligible for Covered CT. If it **does not** include a statement informing you that you are eligible for Covered CT that means you are ineligible for the program. If you do not qualify for HUSKY, you will see a denial message.

- Step 3:** **Apply for Healthcare Premium Assistance** through the fiscal intermediary (Sunset Shores/Allied) by submitting an application and your HUSKY/Covered CT denial letter **NO later than APRIL 7, 2023** in order to receive a payment by ***May 1st, 2023***. The payment will be issued separately from your paycheck.
- Step 4:** **Return to the Health Insurance Exchange by Calling Access Health at 1-844-589-3612 or going to [www.accesshealthct.com](http://www.accesshealthct.com) to purchase the plan that is right for you.** Once you pay the first month's premium, your health insurance will go into effect in accordance with the timeline shared by the insurance company.

**For a complete list of eligibility criteria visit the PCA Workforce Council webpage at [The Personal Care Attendant Workforce Council](#)**

### **PAID TIME OFF (PTO)** Update

- December 16, 2022 is the effective date that PTO accruals began accumulating. PCAs will be able to take PTO at a future time. More information regarding the amount of PTO accruals a PCA/DSP has available to them, and when those accruals can be used, will be forthcoming.
- In the meantime – while implementation of the PTO is under development the PCA Workforce Council will be making bonus payments available to active PCAs/DSPs!
- Active PCAs/DSPs will receive a one-time \$250 bonus payment per Consumer-Employer for whom they work.
- Bonuses will be issued the week of the Juneteenth holiday.
- The goal is for this bonus to provide PCAs/DSPs with the ability to take time-off and compensate themselves should they so choose.
- “Active” PCA/DSP means any PCA/DSP who has been paid at least once for service to a Consumer-Employer on a payroll process date between December 23, 2022 and May 12, 2023, and who is listed on the same Consumer-Employer’s care plan at the time of payment, unless separated from employment due to the Consumer-Employer’s death or admission to an acute care hospital, Chronic disease hospital, nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility.