# MICHIGAN CARPENTERS' FRINGE BENEFIT FUNDS

Michigan Carpenters' Health Care Fund Michigan Carpenters' Pension Fund Managed for the Trustees by: TIC INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

August 2015

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

TO: ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MICHIGAN CARPENTERS' HEALTH CARE FUND (Fund)

RE: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS (SMM)

- Maximum Monthly "Short Hour" Self-Contributions
- Flex Benefits for Supplement to Medicare Participants

### Dear Participant:

Consistent with our duties to prudently administer this Fund, we've made the following two changes. These changes, which are explained below, are *effective October 1, 2015*.

#### 1. Short Hour Self-Contributions

## A. Current "Short Hour" Self-Contribution Program

Currently, the Fund allows active participants to make *unlimited*, monthly "short hour" self-contributions to maintain Fund health care coverage. This is so whether your employer is making *some* contributions on your behalf, or you're making the full monthly "short hour" payment of one hundred forty (140) hours (\$693.00).

(Your Local Union, however, must validate that you're unemployed but available for work within the Fund's geographic jurisdiction for you to qualify for this "short-hour" contribution program).

#### B. "Short-Hour" Self-Contribution Changes

Effective October 2015, you can pay a maximum of twelve (12) continuous, full monthly "short hours" self-contributions.

If you've reached or exceeded the twelve (12) continuous *full* self-contributions, you're eligible to purchase six (6) months of COBRA continuation coverage through the Fund. But, once these six (6) monthly COBRA months have been made, you're not eligible for any other continuation coverage under the Fund. Instead, you must re-establish your eligibility under the Fund's regular active eligibility provisions.

**Please Note:** This change to the twelve (12) maximum number of months for which full, continuous "short-hour" payments can be made does **not** apply to those Participants who are working at the trade and for whom contributions are being made. Nor does this limitation apply if you have an hour bank that you're using to assist in making your short-hour payments. In other words, if you're making short-hour self-contributions and your employer is also contributing *or* your hour bank is being used to meet the one hundred and forty (140) hour requirement, this twelve (12) month maximum doesn't apply to you.

## 2. Flex Benefits for Supplement to Medicare Retirees

The Flex Benefits for reimbursement of prescription drug claims for the Supplement to Medicare participants will be continued for an additional one (1) year period. The reimbursement level remains unchanged – that is, at ninety-percent (90%) with a maximum of \$500 per family for the period of September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the Fund Office.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MICHIGAN CARPENTERS' HEALTH CARE FUND