

For Retiree Health Plan Sponsors, Immediate Action Is Needed

As described in our prior Alerts, the new health care reform law provides a federal subsidy for health plans that cover early retirees, to help offset the cost of such coverage. **Both private and public sector plans are eligible.** Limited funds were allocated to this program and the funds are to be disbursed on a “first come first served” basis until exhausted. Applying early is critical for plans seeking subsidy funds.

On June 29, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the final application form for this program, and formally opened the application process. **Accordingly, sponsors of retiree health plans that might be eligible for this subsidy should complete and file the application as soon as possible.**

Although an online application system will be established at some point, plan sponsors are initially required to file “hard copy” applications. Below you will find links to the final application form and application instructions, as well as a prior alert detailing the subsidy program.

Application form: <http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/Documents/application.pdf>

Application instructions: http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/Documents/application_instructions.pdf

Retiree Reinsurance Program Alert: <http://jaeckle.com/RetireeReinsurance>

Jaeckle Fleischmann will be hosting a series of seminars on what employers need to know about the health care reform law, on July 14, July 21 and July 28, 2010.

For more information, visit:

http://jaeckle.com/files/Health_Care/Seminars/Health_Care_invite.pdf

If you have any questions about the retiree reinsurance program or any other aspect of health care reform, please contact Robert W. Patterson at 716.843.3910 or rpatterson@jaeckle.com, or Michele O. Heffernan at 716.843.3850 or mheffernan@jaeckle.com.

Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel has posted a number of Alerts on the health care reform law in a special section of its website: <http://jaeckle.com/HealthCareReform>

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