



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Group Administrator Memo #10-05**

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**To:** Group Benefits Administrators  
**From:** State and Local Health Benefits Programs  
**Date:** April 29, 2010  
**Re:** Another ARRA Premium Assistance Extension Notice

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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was amended in December by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010, by the Temporary Extension Act of 2010 (TEA) and, most recently by the Continuing Extension Act of 2010 (CEA). The most recent amendment provides an extension of premium reduction eligibility through May 31, 2010.

Attached is a new **COBRA/EXTENDED COVERAGE General Notice**. It should be mailed to anyone experiencing any COBRA qualifying event during the period starting with September 1, 2008, and ending with May 31, 2010, who has not yet received an Election Notice. This should be sent within the normal Election Notice time frame (within 14 days of the loss of coverage). If you have already sent an older version of the Election Notice to anyone who experienced any termination of employment (voluntary or involuntary) on or after April 1, 2010, you must give them a copy of this new notice and provide a new 60-day election period.

In addition to extending ARRA through May 2010, CEA expands ARRA eligibility to another group of Extended Coverage Beneficiary. The law now provides that an involuntary termination of employment that follows a reduction of hours may be a qualifying event for purposes of ARRA premium reduction if the termination occurs on or after March 2, 2010, and not later than May 31, 2010, and the reduction of hours occurred at any time from September 1, 2008, through May 31, 2010. **If you had a March or April involuntary termination of employment of any employee who previously experienced a reduction of hours from September 1, 2008 through May 31, 2010, you should contact Walt Norman at (804) 786-6460 for additional instructions.**