Child Care Fund Makes Online Registration Easier

To ensure that every eligible 1199SEIU member can register for the child care benefits that your contributions support, the 1199SEIU/Employer Child Care Fund has worked to make registration as simple and convenient as possible. In 2010, the online registration process was easier than ever. Many of the 14,000 1199SEIU parents who registered for child care benefits did so online.

At both the Manhattan and Hicksville kickoff registration events last fall, the Funds’ Information Technology team installed computer terminals to help introduce more members to the online registration process and were on hand to lend technical support. Members of the Child Care Fund Advisory Committee also helped register members and answer questions during the kickoff events and throughout the registration season.

The Child Care Fund’s improved online registration system includes several new user-friendly features. Members can now save their online registration sessions and return to them later to make changes or additions – even if they have not completed the full registration process. This allows parents to update their children's program choices at their convenience. The new system also allows members to submit all their required documentation electronically, reducing administrative costs and simplifying the process for both members and staff.

To guide parents through the revamped online process, the Child Care Fund produced the 2011 New Features Tutorial, including instructions on scanning and uploading required documents. CCF posted a printable registration manual on the website for easy reference. The Child Care Fund will continue to work on improving our processes so that all eligible members can apply for the benefits to which they are entitled.

Finally, the Fund updated the Registration Information Booklet that eligible members receive in August. The revised material contains a section that describes the online registration process and includes screen shots along with instructions. All new information was posted on the website for easy reference. The Child Care Fund will continue to work on improving our processes so that all eligible members can apply for the benefits to which they are entitled.

Wellness and preventive care have become a cornerstone of the national health policy debate, and our National Benefit Fund is stepping up our efforts, partnering with the employers and the Union to foster a "culture of health" in our institutions. After all, healthy healthcare workers are critical to the quality of patient care. Meanwhile, our Job Security Fund has been working closely with our institutions and the Union to stretch their limited resources and get experienced workers who have been displaced by hospital closings back on the job. Finally, our Child Care Fund is ensuring that every eligible member can apply for child care benefits by creating a more streamlined registration process for working parents. These efforts all contribute toward making our workforce – and our institutions – stronger.

As always, we look forward to continuing our partnership with you to meet the needs of our industry. In this challenging year, our collaborative work is more important than ever. In this edition of 1199SEIU Funds Employer News, we will let you know about the ways that we are working with you, and the Union, to make our industry stronger.

Sincerely,

Mitra Behroozi
Executive Director
Benefit and Pension Funds

Deborah King
Executive Director
Training and Employment Funds

Vivian Fox
Executive Director
Child Care Funds

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National Benefit Fund Partners with Employers and Union to Build a “Culture of Health”

Our National Benefit Fund has always understood the importance of promoting healthy living for 1199SEIU members and their families. Now, as national attention turns to preventive care, the Benefit Fund is partnering with the Union and employers to foster a “culture of health” at our institutions. Part of that effort is enhancing our existing wellness programs to meet the challenge and support even more 1199SEIU members. Many of your 1199SEIU employees have already taken advantage of one of our many wellness programs, whether by attending a health fair or workshop or calling our 24-Hour Nurse Helpline to ask a medical question. Now they can also get one-on-one support from a health coach to tackle two of the nation’s leading health concerns – weight management and tobacco use. As of March 1, your employees can now connect with a personal health coach who will support them and provide them with the tools they need to improve their health by losing weight, quitting smoking or both.

The Fund’s weight management program puts your 1199SEIU employees in touch with a health coach who can help them incorporate four important elements of weight management into their routine: nutrition, exercise, guided imagery and relaxation techniques. Participants also have access to a registered dietitian and other benefits. Similarly, the tobacco-cessation program combines access to a health coach, qualified support staff, print material and product discounts to help smokers kick the habit for good. We offer savings on nicotine patches, gum and lozenges so that your 1199SEIU employees can choose the method that works best for them. Through their prescription benefit, members can also try non-nicotine medications.

The Fund’s wellness programs also support your 1199SEIU employees in treating chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. In May, our Disease Management Program will be reaching out to even more 1199SEIU members who are at risk for or suffering from these conditions to help them get – and stay – healthy. Of course, the Fund’s 24-Hour Nurse Helpline can still help your employees avoid unnecessary trips to the doctor’s office or the emergency room. Whether they have a question about flu symptoms or their child’s fever, they can call the Nurse Helpline for answers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Encourage your employees to sign up for these lifesaving services and take advantage of all their Fund benefits have to offer – because a healthier workforce helps us all. For more information or materials, talk to your Outreach Coordinator or call our Outreach Department at (646) 473-6930.

New Labor-Management Wellness Committee Formed to Create “Culture of Health” at the Worksite

Earlier this year, the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes, the Union and the National Benefit Fund formed a Labor-Management Wellness Committee to support worksite collaboration and promote better health for 1199SEIU members. The Committee gathered seven institutions – North Shore LIJ, Montefiore Medical Center, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, Continuum Health Partners, Mount Sinai, NYU Langone Medical Center and Weill-Cornell – that already had wellness programs, or a commitment to form them, to share best practices and talk about launching a collaborative industry-wide effort.

Each year, about 35% of the members account for nearly 65% of the healthcare costs because of diabetes, heart disease and their related conditions.

Keep an eye out for further information on how your institution can get involved.

Employers, Union and the Job Security Fund Work Together to Meet New Challenges

League/1199SEIU Back-to-Work Campaign

The changing healthcare industry and tough economic times mean that many institutions may have to reduce staff, stretching the limited Job Security Fund finances. To meet the challenge of placing workers back in the industry, representatives of the League and 1199SEIU have been meeting to discuss initiatives that would ultimately increase JSF placements and keep costs within budget. As part of this effort, JSF trainings are being conducted in all boroughs. These trainings help ensure that management and labor have the information they need about priority referrals and vacancy availability to ensure that the vacancies are filled as quickly and effectively as possible. Some institutions – such as Northshore LIJ, Mount Sinai and Continuum Health Partners – have agreed to waive the GED requirement for many positions in order to hire JSF participants.

All institutions are urged to send their vacancies to the JSF and expedite the interview process for participants so we can get members back to work quickly.

Update on SVCMC and North General Placements

The Job Security Fund thanks those employers who have worked to place laid-off workers from SVCMC and North General. However, although 1,181 former SVCMC and North General workers have been re-employed, 381 workers are still seeking placement. We urge all hospitals to send vacancies to JSF and expedite the interview process. These experienced healthcare workers are ready, willing and able to make a contribution.

If necessary, training is available to ensure that the remaining candidates meet the requirements of open positions. We also have an Apprenticeship Program that will help expedite placements by allowing institutions to upgrade incumbent workers, which will create vacancies for laid-off workers, or place laid-off workers in need of additional training, credentialing or experience at a reduced salary while the JSF provides the training and stipend to make the salary whole. For more information, please contact Rosa Mejia at (212) 284-9287.
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Our 1199SEIU Funds are the result of a labor and management partnership. So we are well aware of how much we can accomplish for the healthcare industry when we work together. As our industry prepares for another challenging year, our collaborative work is more important than ever. In this edition of 1199SEIU Funds Employer News, we will let you know about the ways that we are working with you, and the Union, to make our industry stronger.

Our National Benefit Fund has always been ahead of the curve by focusing on wellness and preventive care. But now that these issues have become a cornerstone of the national health policy debate, we are stepping up our efforts, partnering with the employers and the Union to foster a “culture of health” in our institutions. After all, healthy healthcare workers are critical to the quality of patient care. Meanwhile, our Job Security Fund has been working closely with our institutions and the Union to stretch their limited resources and get experienced workers who have been displaced by hospital closings back on the job. Finally, our Child Care Fund is ensuring that every eligible member can apply for child care benefits by creating a more streamlined registration process for working parents. These efforts all contribute toward making our workforce – and our institutions - stronger.

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