

December 2008

Dear UFT Medicare Retiree:

The Trustees of the Welfare Fund are pleased once again, to help those retirees who are enrolled in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan. This year, even in the midst of this national economic crisis, we are expanding the reimbursement of the 5% Catastrophic copayments to cover your spouse or domestic partner as well. We believe you may be helped by this UFT Welfare Fund benefit.

As you are aware, the Medicare Part D legislation became effective in January 2006. We opposed the Medicare Part D plan because we knew from the onset, that this plan could adversely affect some of our retirees who may be on multiple and expensive medications. This is evidenced in the increase in the donut hole out of pocket copayments from \$3600 in 2006, to \$3850 in 2007 and now \$4050 in 2008.

Those retirees who find themselves in the “catastrophic” portion (meaning they surpassed the donut hole and have spent **\$4050** in out of pocket copayments) are the most vulnerable. To assist these members and now their spouse or domestic partner, we created this benefit to reimburse the 5% out of pocket copayments for those retirees in the catastrophic coverage portion of the Medicare Part D plan.

It is important to note that the Federal government has put tough constraints on our reimbursing this 5% to our members. In order to provide this reimbursement within those constraints, our eligible retirees must follow these instructions:

- 1- Enclosed is a reimbursement form that must be completed by the UFT retiree who has a Medicare Part D plan. This benefit is for the UFT retiree and their spouse or domestic partner.
- 2- You must attach a copy of your **Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** from your Part D drug plan that shows your total out of pocket expenditures made for calendar year 2008. **There are two parts to the EOB including the cover letter that identifies you and the detail outlining your prescription drug expenditures. Please include both parts with your reimbursement form.** This EOB comes directly to you from your Medicare Part D plan.
- 3- Finally, this information must be received at the Fund by **February 1, 2009.** Unfortunately, we have a 90 day window from January 1st, to process, reimburse and provide you with an Explanation of Benefits.

The Welfare Fund will be providing additional information with your reimbursement check and our Explanation of Benefit.

Thank you and please accept my best wishes in this holiday season.

Yours truly,



Randi Weingarten
Chair



Local 2 American Federation of Teachers, NYSUT, AFL-CIO