AGENDA & REPORTS
NOVEMBER 10, 2025
10:00 AM
Zoom – Conference Call

Zoom Meeting

https://permainc.zoom.us/j/95415587310

Meeting ID: 954 1558 7310

One tap mobile

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STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN BY (1) SENDING SUFFICIENT NOTICE HEREWITH TO THE ATLANTIC CITY PRESS.

(2) FILING ADVANCE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WITH THE CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR OF EACH MEMBER AND (3) POSTING A COPY OF THE MEETING NOTICE ON THE PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARD OF ALL MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL BOARDS

SOUTHERN COASTAL REGIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND AGENDA
MEETING: NOVEMBER 10, 2025
ZOOM Meeting
10:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE READ

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL OF THE 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Richard Davidson, Chair
Pasquale Yacovelli, Secretary
Jerry Velazquez, Executive Committee
Megan Duffield, Executive Committee
Laurie Ryan, Executive Committee
Scott Musterel, Executive Committee
Mark Mallet, Executive Committee
Frank Badessa, Executive Committee Alternate
Dennis Zakroff, Executive Committee Alternate
Kevin Smaniotto, Executive Committee Alternate

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT – *Agenda Items Only*

REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PERMA)
Monthly Report...**Page 3**

PROGRAM MANAGER– (Shared Health Alliance)
Monthly Report...**Page 6**

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED

Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund
Executive Director's Report
November 10, 2025

MEDICAL THIRD-PARTY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

At the last meeting, the Executive Committee provided the Fund Administrator, Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) and Attorney the authority to obtain fees from Medical TPAs for the 2026 Fund year through the emergency procurement process. Aetna and AmeriHealth have both submitted proposals, of which both are included within the agenda. The adopted budgeted amounts are adequate to satisfy the proposals.

The summary of the administrative fees by Carrier are below. Resolution 33-25 accepts the proposals and approves the contracts.

Aetna:

Southern Coastal Health Insurance Fund

Contact Information/Assumptions

Account Executive:	Jason Silverstein	SIC Code:	6371
Email:	SilversteinJ@aetna.com	Mem/EE Ratio:	2.52
Telephone:	732-501-1852		

Administrative Service Fees — Effective Date: January 01, 2026 — End Date: December 31, 2026

	Current	SOLD Year 1	Year 2
Guarantee Period Effective Date	January 01, 2025	**January 01, 2026**	January 01, 2027
Fee Basis	Mature	**Mature**	Mature

Medical Fees as Billed (PEPM)*	Estimated Enrollment	Current	Year 1	Year 2
Southern Coastal Health Insurance Fund	4,815	$34.30	$34.30	$34.99
Administrative Service Fees	4,815	$1,981,854	**$1,981,854**	$2,021,491
Service Fee Guarantee % Change*		-	**0.00%**	2.00%

	Subscribers	All Funds
Fee Brackets	15,001 - 20,000 Contracts	$38.00
	20,001 - 25,000 Contracts	$36.00
	25,001 - 30,000 Contracts	$36.00
	30,001 - 35,000 Contracts	$34.30
	35,001 - 40,000 Contracts	$34.30
	40,001 - 45,000 Contracts	$33.30
	45,001 - 50,000 Contracts	$33.30
	50,001 - 60,000 Contracts	$32.30
	60,001 and up.	To be negotiated

AmeriHealth:

RENEWAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Coastal HIF

GROUP # 4045 and all divisions

Current: 1,541 Contracts / 3,983 Members

Effective: January 01, 2026

CLAIMS AND ADMINISTRATION FEES

	Current 01/01/2025 - 12/31/2026	1 Year Renewal 01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026
Medical / Utilization Management	$37.04	$37.04
Network Access Fee	$4.00	$4.00
Telemedicine	$0.00	$0.00
Wellness Credit	-$1.25	-$1.25
Technology Credit	-$0.25	-$0.25
Total	**$39.54**	**$39.54**

RESOLUTION NO. 33-25

SOUTHERN COASTAL REGIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

RESOLUTION FOR THE AWARD OF CONTRACT PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6

WHEREAS, the Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund (hereinafter the "Fund"), is duly constituted as a joint insurance fund and is subject to certain requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq., specifically N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6, and the New Jersey Administrative Code, specifically N.J.A.C 5:34-6.1, allows for emergency procurement for matters affecting the public safety, health, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the Fund has deemed it necessary and appropriate to obtain the services for third party administrator services (health benefit plans) through an emergency procurement due to the delay and/or inability to issue new Request for Proposals as a result of the pre-advertisement review process from the New Jersey Office of the State Comptroller;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund, that the following insurance contract awards be approved for the term of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026:

Medical Third Party Administrator – Aetna - $34.30 PEPM (estimated annual $1,936,990)

Medical Third Party Administrator – AmeriHealth Administrators - $39.54 PEPM (estimated annual $680,499)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contracts providing for the above services will be on file in the Fund's office located at: 9 Campus Drive, Suite 216, Parsippany, NJ 07054; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this action shall be advertised in the Fund's official newspapers in accordance with the law and notice of this action shall be filed with the appropriate regulatory agencies.

ADOPTED: November 10, 2025

BY;______________________________

CHAIR

ATTEST:

____

SECRETARY

November 10, 2025 (special meeting)

Prospects:

GROUPS WITH INITIAL OUTREACH DISCUSSIONS	1
GROUPS WITH CLAIMS REQUESTED/PENDING	1
NUMBER OF GROUPS UNDER REVIEW WITH UNDERWRITING	5
PROPOSALS PENDING	0
PROPOSALS RELEASED STILL UNDER REVIEW	0
GROUPS SOLD	6
GROUPS WITH UNFAVORABLE CLAIMS/POOR RISK	28

Coastal Fund Meeting Dates:

- January 27, 2025
- March 24, 2025
- June 2, 2025
- July 28, 2025
- September 22, 2025
- October 27, 2025
- January 26, 2026

Coastal Fund Brokers:

- Allen Associates
- AR Fanucci
- Assured Partners
- Brown & Brown
- J Byrne Agency
- Conner Strong & Buckelew
- Cornerstone Insurance Group
- Glenn Insurance
- Hardenbergh Insurance Group
- Hafetz Insurance
- Innovative Risk Solutions
- PBC (Professional Benefit Consultants)

Executive Committee:

- Richard Davidson, Chair
- Pat Yacovelli, Secretary
- Jerry Velazquez, Executive Committee
- Megan Duffield, Executive Committee
- Laurie Ryan, Executive Committee
- Scott Musterel, Executive Committee
- Mark Mallet, Executive Committee
- Frank Badessa, Executive Committee Alternate
- Dennis Zakroff, Executive Committee Alternate
- Kevin Smaniotto, Executive Committee Alternate

2025 Committees:

Finance & Contracts

- Richard Davidson – Chair
- Jerry Velazquez
- Scott Musterel

Operations & Nominations

- Jerry Velazquez
- Mark Mallet
- Pat Yacovelli

Wellness & Claims

- Laurie Ryan – Chair
- Megan Duffield
- Pat Yacovelli

WELLNESS COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Please visit www.coastalhif.com/wellness to review the wellness grant guidelines and information needed to submit a new application. You can also find information on programs like Biometric Screenings from Health Fairs Direct, the wellness tracking app from Advanta Health Solutions, and many other resources at www.coastalhif.com/wellness/resources. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

PROPOSED 2026 WELLNESS BUDGET & PLANS:

There will be quite a lot of new wellness happenings in 2026. We will officially be starting the year-long Ramp Pilot program with Millville BOE and The Authority on 10/1/25 (with hopes to roll out for entire Coastal HIF in 2027). The Committees have agreed to set the grant budget to include ALL groups - giving us no chance of running out of funds. And we will continue with Advanta's ActiveFit+ once again. This is what the cost associated with those things could look like:

- *Total of all groups' allowances:* ***$281,700 (based on 9/1/25 census)***
- *Advanta Base Plan:* ***$95-100k*** *(also depending on monthly census)*
- *Ramp Pilot Program: $11,786 (x9 months) + $5k onboarding fee =* ***$111,074***
- ***Total: $500,000 (approximately)***

2026 GRANT SUBMISSION DATES - November 30 (for 1/1/26 start) & May 15 (for 7/1/26 start):

In 2025, we had a record number of wellness applications, and we expect the same or more for 2026. Therefore, the cap has been removed to allow every entity to apply. If you applied in Winter 2024 for a January 1, 2025 start date or did not apply at all, you can apply by November 30, 2025 to continue. If you miss this date or applied in Spring 2025, you must wait until Spring 2026 to reapply. Below is the date your group last applied and your grant amount for the 2026 Fund Year:

- **Applied in Winter 2024:**
  - Buena Reg BOE — $10,620
  - Cumberland County — $24,570
  - Cumberland Regional BOE — $7,670
  - Margate City — $6,370
  - Millville BOE — $23,905
  - Ocean City BOE — $13,035
  - Upper Twp BOE — $9,620
  - Vineland BOE — $30,750

- **Applied in Spring 2025:**
  - Absecon City — $2,550
  - Bridgeton BOE — $24,745
  - CCIA (The Authority) — $4,350
  - Cumb Cty Charter School Network — $5,625
  - CCTEC — $8,060
  - Lower Cape May Reg BOE — $8,580
  - Lower Twp Elementary School — $11,340
  - Penns Grove-Carneys Point BOE — $13,350
  - Salem County — $20,080
  - Waterford Twp BOE — $6,955
  - Woodstown, Boro of — $1,275

- **Did NOT Apply for 2025 Grant:**
  - Alloway Twp BOE — $2,250
  - Brigantine City — $7,275
  - Buena Borough — $1,500
  - Downe Twp BOE — $1,125
  - Egg Harbor Twp — $11,040
  - Hopewell Twp BOE — $4,350
  - Lawrence Twp BOE — $4,125
  - Longport, Borough of — $1,650
  - Penns Grove, Boro of — $3,000
  - Pittsgrove Twp — $750
  - Upper Deerfield BOE — $8,255
  - Vineland Housing Authority — $2,250
  - West Cape May BOE — $750

ACTIVEFIT PORTAL IS NOW LIVE:

Advanta now offers access to the ActiveFit+ portal for each group in the Coastal HIF. You can use this to check out your group's participation levels and overall analytics. To learn how this works please reach out to corey@shanj.com or directly to jsalo@advantahealth.com.

REIMBURSEMENT REMINDER:

We have observed that some groups applying for grants are not requesting reimbursements, indicating they may not be proceeding with their wellness plans. This is unfair to other groups who wish to apply when funds are depleted. If you haven't requested funds for previous years, please do so by filling out the form on coastalhif.com and sending to corey@shanj.com. Below are the guidelines for how to submit. We have included the entire form on the following page.

Submission Checklist

- *The Fund will reimburse approved expenses by submitting this completed voucher with required documents. Please include this signed voucher along with required back up documents/receipts. Without the below items, reimbursement will be denied:*
  - *Signed Purchase Orders for all items & Vendor Invoices if applicable OR purchase receipts (must match PO) & Check Copies or proof of payment for each item listed on voucher*

MORE PROOF THAT WELLNESS WORKS:

We analyzed the Medical L/R of groups active in the wellness program from 2021 to 2023 and found the following:

Groups that applied in 2022-2023:	Groups that did not apply in 2022-2023:	Groups that applied between 2021-2023: *	Groups not consistent between 2021-2023:	Groups w/ over 20% Advanta participation:
87%	111%	93%	119%	82%

*had to apply for at least 2 years

- **There is a 24% difference between groups that applied in 2022-2023 and those that did not.**
- **There is a 26% difference between groups that applied consistently over three years versus those that did not.**

Advanta, with the help of the Validation Institute, studied our Medical Loss Ratio data relative to their active users and found that **groups utilizing Advanta Health's ActiveFit+ platform report an average MLR savings of 10.4% in the first year**, with increased savings correlating to higher participant enrollment.

Reminder: *Please visit the Coastal HIF website for more details on how to apply, what is eligible, ideas for an application and additional resource information. You can always contact corey@shanj.com us for any assistance that you might need. Here's the website link: https://coastalhif.com/wellness/application*

GUARDIAN NURSES:

MEET THE COASTAL FUND DEDICATED GUARDIAN NURSES

Paula Spector, RN
609-276-5001
pspector@guardiannurses.com

Sarah Fiske, RN
856-239-3823
sfiske@guardiannurses.com

Also attached is the most recent Guardian Nurses newsletter “*The Flame*”

ADMINISTRATIVE REMINDERS & UPDATES:

- **Broker Contact Information** - Please direct any escalated claims, benefit coverages, prescription coverage, Medicare advantage or appeal related questions to our dedicated Benefit Specialists as follows: MaryBeth Anglani marybeth@allenassoc.com , or Annie Jimenez annie@allenassoc.com .

- **Monthly Billing** -As a reminder, please be sure to check your monthly invoice for accuracy. If you find a discrepancy, please report it to the Coastal Fund enrollment team. The Fund’s policy is to limit retro corrections, *including terminations,* to 60 days. We have noticed an increase in requests for enrollment changes, billing changes, terminations and additions well past the 60-day time frame. Moving forward, it is of the utmost importance to review bills for rate and enrollment accuracy on a monthly basis. If there is an error, please bring it to our attention.

- System training (**new and refresher**) is provided to all contacts with WEX access **every 3rd Wednesday at 10AM**. Please contact HIFtraining@permainc.com for additional information or to request an invite.
  - ***In the subject line of the email, please include: Training – Fund Name and Client Name. Please be sure to add the date of the training you would like to attend in your email so an invite can be sent.***

- **PARTIAL MONTH ENROLLEMNTS REMINDER>>**When processing enrollments and terminations, the Fund will charge a member for a full month rate for an employee that is enrolled between the 1st and the 15th of the month but will charge the member in the following month if an enrollment occurred between the 16th and the 31st of the month. If a member should term between the 1st and the 15th of the month, the Fund will not charge the member a rate for the enrollment but will charge a full month rate if a member terms between the 16th and the 31st of the month.

- **WEX PORTAL AND BILLING ISSUES:** Effective 3/17/2025 the Coastal Enrollments email (coastal enrollments@permainc.com) has been shut down. The following emails should be used:
  - **Marlene Robinson, mrobinson@permainc.com, 856-552-4818**
  - **Michele McKeever, mmckeever@permainc.com, 856-479-2160**

PLEASE BE SURE TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR HR/BENEFITS DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS YOUR ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DEPARTMENT.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Retiree First: The Coastal Fund is now working with Retiree First. Retiree First will add another layer of support for the Medicare Retiree population. Letters were mailed out to the current Medicare Advantage population making them aware of Retiree First as a resource.

Attached is a Retiree First flyer sharing their toll-free number 1-855-257-7195.

They will be available to help the Medicare Advantage population. Just some of the support they will offer is:

- Plan Questions
- Outreach to Providers and Pharmacies (if applicable)
- Mail Order Assistance
- Formulary Lookup
- Medical and Prescription Billing Issues (if applicable)
- Updating Personal Information Changes

Open Enrollment – 1/1/26 (Passive):

- COASTAL OE will be held October 20^{th} through October 31^{st}
- All OE updates should be completed in WEX by November 14^{th} to allow time for ID cards to be delivered to members by 1/1/26
- OE guides are currently being updated and will be sent once finalized

<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>: Below are the new members joining the Coastal effective 1/1/2026

New Member Overview	
Fund	Coastal HIF
Entity	**Somers Point BOE**
County	Atlantic
Effective Date	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Lines of Coverage	Medical & Rx
Eligible Employees	98
Retiree Coverage	Yes - Under and Over 65
Current Arrangement	State Health Benefits
Actuary Certification	Yes: Standard Underwriting Methodology
Broker	Integrity Consulting Group
Broker Fee	3%
Claims PEPM (comb'd)	$2,620
Run Out Claims	State Health Benefits
Member approval?	Indemnity and Trust Agreement received
Special Requests	None

New Member Overview	
Fund	Coastal HIF
Entity	**Buena Borough MUA**
County	Atlantic
Effective Date	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Lines of Coverage	Medical
Eligible Employees	10
Retiree Coverage	Yes - Under and Over 65
Current Arrangement	State Health Benefits
Actuary Certification	Yes: Standard Underwriting Methodology
Broker	Allen Associates
Broker Fee	2%
Claims PEPM (comb'd)	$1,291
Run Out Claims	State Health Benefits
Member approval?	Indemnity and Trust Agreement received
Special Requests	None

New Member Overview	
Fund	Coastal HIF
Entity	**Mullica Twp**
County	Atlantic
Effective Date	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Lines of Coverage	Medical & Rx
Eligible Employees	41
Retiree Coverage	Yes - Under and Over 65
Current Arrangement	State Health Benefits
Actuary Certification	Yes: Standard Underwriting Methodology
Broker	Professional Benefit Consultants
Broker Fee	2%
Claims PEPM (comb'd)	$4,252
Run Out Claims	State Health Benefits
Member approval?	Indemnity and Trust Agreement received
Special Requests	None

New Member Overview	
Fund	Coastal HIF
Entity	**City of Northfield**
County	Atlantic
Effective Date	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Lines of Coverage	Medical & Rx
Eligible Employees	88
Retiree Coverage	Yes - Under and Over 65
Current Arrangement	State Health Benefits
Actuary Certification	Yes: Standard Underwriting Methodology
Broker	Hardenbergh Insurance Group
Broker Fee	3%
Claims PEPM (comb'd)	$3,511
Run Out Claims	State Health Benefits
Member approval?	Indemnity and Trust Agreement received
Special Requests	None

Resolution 34-25 ratifies the membership offer to the above-mentioned groups.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

2025 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

MEDICAL AND RX REPORTING: None

VENDOR UPDATES

AETNA & AMERIHEALTH – NO SURPRISE ACT- TRANSITION TO NEW JERSEY

On behalf of the Health Insurance Funds, the Department of Banking and Insurance has been notified that both Aetna and AmeriHealth will adhere to New Jersey's No Surprises Act effective January 1, 2026. A memo from PERMA detailing the change is provided.

******NOTE THAT NEW ID CARDS FOR BOTH CARRIERS WILL BE ISSUED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2026. ALL OPEN***

ENROLLMENT CHANGES WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES TO ID#s or GROUP #s.

EXPRESS SCRIPT UPDATES: Attached is the 2026 Express Scripts NPF and Saveon lists:

- **NPF list**
- **NPF Exclusions list**
  - From Preferred to Not Covered - 19 members impacted

**** Please note the exclusion of the GLP-1 weight loss medications, Saxenda vials and Zepbound vials DO NOT apply to the NPF and will not impact those currently taking the drugs as pharmacies do not dispense vials.**

- **SaveOn list**
  - Drugs highlighted in green (39) have been added effective 1/1/26
  - Drugs highlighted in red (14) will be removed effective 1/1/26
    - **Impacted members will continue to receive the drugs through Accredo Specialty pharmacy but will be required to pay their applicable copay starting 1/1/26**

All impacted members were sent communications from ESI letting them know about the upcoming change(s) to their medications. The communications also include preferred alternatives medication(s). We recommend impacted members share communication with their provider to discuss next steps. Those that are unable to take the preferred alternative medication(s) will need an approved PA to continue to take their current medication(s).

Please Note – the above information is provided on an aggregate level for the Fund, not by group.

APPEALS & IRO's (Independent Review Organization) (as of 10.21.25) –

Carrier Appeals

Submission Date	Appeal Type	Appeal Number	Reason	Determination	Determination Date
08/07/2025	Medical/Aetna	COASTAL 2025 08 03	Implant	Upheld	09/08/2025
08/14/2025	Medical/Aetna	COASTAL 2025 08 06	Imaging	Upheld	09/08/2025

IRO Submissions:

Submission Date	Appeal Type	Appeal Number	Reason	Determination	Determination Date
09/08/2025	Medical/Aetna	COASTAL 2025 08 03	Implant	Upheld	09/17/2025
09/08/2025	Medical/Aetna	COASTAL 2025 08 06	Imaging	Upheld	09/25/2025

RESOLUTION NO. 34-25

SOUTHERN COASTAL REGIONAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
RESOLUTION TO OFFER MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, the Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund (hereinafter the Fund) is duly constituted as a joint insurance fund and is subject to certain requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law; and;

WHEREAS, the Fund held a Public Meeting on **November 10, 2025** for the purposes of conducting the official business of the Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Director and Actuary of the Fund has reviewed the risk, underwriting detail, and actuarial projections for (Somers Point BOE, Buena Borough MUA, City of Northfield, Mullica Township,) commend offers of membership; and

1. Somers Point BOE – Medical & Prescription - Effective 1/1/2026
2. Buena Borough MUA – Medical – Effective 1/1/2026
3. City of Northfield – Medical & Prescription – Effective 1/1/2026
4. Mullica Township – Medical & Prescription – Effective 1/1/2026

BE IT RESOLVED, it has been determined that the admission to membership in the Fund of the above mentioned municipalities would be in the best interests of the Fund and the inclusion of the entity in the Fund is consistent with the Fund's By-laws;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Coastal Regional Employee Benefits Fund hereby offers membership to the above mentioned entity's for medical and prescription coverage, contingent upon receipt acceptance of the conditions stated above.

ADOPTED: November 10, 2025

BY:____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:______________________________________
SECRETARY

APPENDIX I

PERMA | Risk Management Services

JAMES RHODES
VICE PRESIDENT, Health Insurance Funds Governance
P 856-552-4920
E jrhodes@permainc.com

National Headquarters
TRIAD1828 CENTRE
2 Cooper Street | Camden, NJ 08102

Mailing Address
PO Box 99106 | Camden, NJ 08101

permainc.com

MEMO

To: XXX Chair Person

From: James Rhodes

CC: Brandon Lodics
Tammy Brown
Executive Committee Members

Date: October 27, 2025

Subject: NJ Out-of-Network Consumer Protection, Transparency, Cost Containment, and Accountability Act

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As we have discussed in our review of unforeseen claims resulting from the Federal No Surprises Act, PERMA has researched and discussed the State of New Jersey's Out-Of-Network Consumer Protection, Transparency, Cost Containment, and Accountability Act, P.L. 2019, c. 31, codified as N.J.S.A. 26:2SS-1 to -20 (the "Act"), with our carrier partners.

The Funds currently are subject to the Federal statute. But with the dramatic impact on HIF budgets throughout the State due to the Federal statute, **PERMA is directing Aetna and AmeriHealth to have the Funds opt-in to the State's no surprises program, which is permitted in the Act. The change will be effective January 1, 2026.**

The State's Act offers several advantages to plan sponsors:

- Plan members are still protected from surprise medical billing, but via the State process going forward.
- Under New Jersey's Act, there is only one Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) vendor (at this time, Maximus), as opposed to the many available under the Federal law.
- The State's Act provides strict timelines for submitting claims, where we've seen the effect of surprise awards and fees many months or even years after the initial claim was paid under the Federal Law, which also requires fees to be paid to CMS and the IDR, and the IDR fees vary. The State's IDR fees are set and given its other requirements, the law provides for a much more predictable and manageable process.
- The Act also requires that any ID card issued by a self-funded plan must indicate whether the plan has opted in to the arbitration provisions under the Act. Thus, issuance of identification cards compliant with the Act must occur upon the earliest of the following: issuance of a new or renewal plan or the self-funded plan's opt-in to OON Arbitration.

Once subject to the State's Act, the Funds will no longer be subject to the Federal law, except in the case of air ambulance services which are not covered by the State's Act. The State Act applies when an out-of-network health care provider, who is licensed or certified in New Jersey, rendered a covered service to a covered person in New Jersey under the health benefits plan. Healthcare services incurred before January 1, 2026, are still subject to the Federal law. We expect this change to bring a more predictable process for budgeting and managing NSA claims going forward. It should be noted that the New Jersey Act requires an annual opt-in, so certain protections exist should it be deemed necessary to opt out in the future.

We appreciate your advocacy for changes to the Federal NSA IDR process, but it is apparent changes are not likely. The State option provides Funds with the most protection while still providing members with protection from surprise medical bills.

Please let us know if you have any questions.