

RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Unless otherwise provided for by collective bargaining agreement or County policy, for groups composed of public Employees and officers, an Employee who retires from Active Service while the Plan is still in force and subject to the terms of 2-18-704, MCA, or other applicable law, may continue to remain a member of the Health Benefits Plan until the Employee becomes eligible for Medicare under the Health Insurance for the Aged Act, as amended, unless he/she is a participant in another group plan with substantially equivalent benefits and rates, or unless he/she is employed and therefore eligible to participate in another group plan with substantially equivalent benefits and rates.

SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN COVERAGE

The spouse of a retired covered Employee may remain a member of the group subject to the terms of 2-18-704, MCA, or other applicable law, unless he/she is eligible for equivalent insurance coverage as stipulated above or the spouse is eligible for Medicare under the Health Insurance for the Aged Act, as amended.

The surviving spouse of a retired covered Employee shall be provided the opportunity to remain a member of the group as long as the spouse is eligible for retirement benefits accrued by the deceased covered Employee, unless he/she has or is eligible for equivalent coverage in another group plan, or is eligible for Medicare under the Health Insurance for the Aged Act, as amended.

The surviving children of a deceased covered Employee may remain members of the group as long as they are eligible for retirement benefits accrued by the deceased covered Employee unless they have equivalent coverage in another group plan or are eligible for health coverage under a surviving parent's or legal guardian's Employee health benefit plan.