



IBEW Local 697 Health & Benefit Plan  
7200 Mississippi St Ste 300  
Merrillville, IN 46410-3993

NAME  
ADDRESS1 ADDRESS2  
CITY, STATE ZIP  
**IMPORTANT PLAN INFORMATION ENCLOSED**

**Important Information About Your Medicare Advantage Program  
Sponsored by  
The Lake County Indiana, NECA – I.B.E.W. Health & Benefit Plan.**

Dear Medicare-eligible Retiree and/or Dependent,

We are pleased to inform you that there will be a change to your **Medical and Prescription Drug** coverage provided by IBEW Local 697 Health & Benefit Plan. This change is being made to address the continually increasing cost of coverage and to ensure that Medicare-eligible participants have access to comprehensive coverage at the most affordable cost.

Your dedicated team of Retiree Advocates at RetireeFirst will continue to be available to assist you with this change and provide ongoing support.

Your new Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drug (MAPD) Plan will be provided by **Anthem Medicare Preferred (PPO)** effective January 1, 2026.

# About Your New Plan

## **Plan Highlights:**

- \$0 Medical and Prescription Deductibles
- Medicare Covered Medical Services are \$0 cost to you
- One routine eye exam per year is \$0 cost to you, \$70 max benefit when utilizing out of network provider.
- One routine hearing exam per year is \$0 cost to you, \$70 max benefit
- \$1,500 Combined hearing aid allowance every 3 years (\*Must use TruHearing providers)
- Access to SilverSneakers Fitness Benefit
- Continued access to RetireeFirst Advocates for assistance with understanding and using your benefits

## **Important Things to Know:**

- You must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B to participate in the Anthem MAPD Plan.
- Put your Medicare card in a safe place in case you need it later. You will use only your Anthem ID card for Medical and Prescription Drugs.
- You can use any willing Medicare medical provider, regardless of whether the provider is in or out of the Anthem network.
- No referrals are needed for Medicare covered medical services.
- You should continue to be able to use almost any retail pharmacy as Anthem includes over 64,000 in-network pharmacies, nationwide.
- Anthem also offers a Mail Order Pharmacy called CarelonRx for your convenience. If you would like to use the CarelonRx Mail Order Pharmacy, you will need new prescriptions.
- You do not need new prescriptions for retail pharmacies. Simply show your new ID card and your refills will be processed under the Anthem MAPD Plan.

## **Mailings to Expect in the Coming Months:**

- Termination of Coverage Letter from UnitedHealthcare®
- Anthem Pre-enrollment Kit
- Anthem Approval Letter (Confirmation of Enrollment)
- Anthem Welcome Kit
- Anthem ID Card

Please keep in mind each Retiree, spouse, and/or dependent may receive the above items on different days; this is normal.

## You're Invited

RetireeFirst and the Benefit Fund Office will be hosting an informational Retiree event detailing the new plan and answering any questions you may have. Retirees, spouses, and/or dependents are invited to attend an in-person event:

Location	Date	Time
IBEW Local 697 7200 Mississippi St Suite 300 Merrillville, IN 46410	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	10:00am CDT
IBEW Local 697 7200 Mississippi St Suite 300 Merrillville, IN 46410	Tuesday, November 4, 2025	1:00pm CDT

**However, you must RSVP for the in-person event by 10/31/2025 to RetireeFirst at (219) 220-4037 (TTY 711) or toll free (844) 617-5747 (TTY 711) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm CDT.**

We strongly recommend that all Medicare-eligible retirees and/or dependents attend a Retiree event to better understand your plan. Additionally, a Retiree Advocacy Webpage has been set up for easy access to RetireeFirst plan and contact information. You can access this page at [www.retireefirst.com/ibew697](http://www.retireefirst.com/ibew697).

*We are required by law to give you the choice of opting out of the new plan. Since you are currently enrolled in the IBEW Local 697 Health & Benefit Medical and Prescription Drug Plan it is unlikely that you would not want to participate in the new Anthem MAPD Plan. However, you have the option to opt-out. If you opt-out, you will not have Medical and Prescription Drug coverage through IBEW Local 697 Health & Benefit. Nevertheless, if you would like to opt-out, please call RetireeFirst at (219) 220-4037 (TTY 711) or toll free (844) 617-5747 (TTY 711) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm CDT.*

Enclosed in this mailing is also a Frequently Asked Questions document to answer questions you might have now. If you have questions about any information in this letter, please do not hesitate to call RetireeFirst Advocates at **(219) 220-4037 (TTY 711)** or toll free **(844) 617-5747 (TTY 711) Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm CDT.**

Sincerely,

IBEW Local 697 Health & Benefit Plan

Disclaimer: For complete benefit details please refer to the carrier issued materials. This document includes a simplified summary of benefits and does not create any contractual rights.