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Alaska Chamber & Association Health Plans

Presented by RISQ Consulting & Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska



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“ Many of our laws make healthcare coverage more expensive for small businesses than large companies. Association Health Plans are about more choice, more access, and more coverage. ”

- Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta



How do Association Health Plans work?

- ▶ Association Health Plans (AHPs), under the Department of Labor's rule, are group health plans that employer groups and associations offer to provide health coverage for employees.
- ▶ AHPs allow small employers to band together to purchase the types of coverage that are available to large employers, which can be better tailored to the needs of their employees.
- ▶ The new rule allows more employer groups and associations to form AHPs, based on common geography or industry.
- ▶ An AHP could offer coverage to some or all employers in a state, city, county, or a multi-state metro area, or it could offer coverage to businesses in a trade or industry group nationwide.
- ▶ For the first time, working owners without other employees (including sole-proprietors) and their families will be permitted to join AHPs, creating a new path for these hardworking Americans to access affordable, quality health coverage.

Source: www.dol.gov/general/topic/association-health-plans#FAQs



**Big Benefits.
Small Businesses.
Made Easy.**



Big Benefits. Small Businesses. Made Easy.

- ▶ Flexible and innovative medical plan designs, not generally available to small businesses
- ▶ Better rates and contracts not typically available to small employers for non-medical benefits
- ▶ Premera pays Primary over Medicare (Secondary)
- ▶ Stability of benefits year over year
- ▶ Transparency to understand plan utilization of plan resources

Big Benefits. Small Businesses. Made Easy.

- ▶ Small businesses will have the ability to compete with large employers
- ▶ Local direction by Chamber Members
- ▶ Available for employers with up to 50 employees on payroll
- ▶ Available to sole-proprietors
- ▶ Participants incentivized to manage healthcare costs



Big Benefits. Small Businesses. Made Easy.

- ▶ Simple quoting and setup process
- ▶ Simplified administration of benefits
- ▶ Potential for consolidated billing
- ▶ Technology for easy employee enrollment
- ▶ Streamlined compliance obligations
- ▶ Simplified Member Experience (single ID card and customer service team for medical and dental coverage)



Why Alaska Chamber?

- ▶ Represents a large and diverse group of Alaska businesses, industries, and locations
- ▶ Encompasses majority of local Chambers
- ▶ Precedent set by other Chambers
- ▶ Branding, growth, and retention vehicle for the Alaska Chamber
- ▶ Governed and “owned” by Alaska Chamber versus insurance companies and Washington policy makers
- ▶ Providing AHP to members upholds Alaska Chamber’s vision “To promote a healthy business environment in Alaska”
- ▶ Creates non-dues revenue opportunity



Why Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska?

- ▶ Largest network of preferred doctors and hospitals in Alaska and nationwide
- ▶ Ability to scale products and innovation across the state
- ▶ Understanding of the unique aspects of Alaska's business community, geography, and challenges
- ▶ Willingness to invest in Alaska, its businesses and residents for the long-term
- ▶ Trial programs available to Alaska Chamber through Premera
- ▶ Experience working and creating Association Health Plans
- ▶ Desire to improve Alaskan's lives by making healthcare work better
 - ▶ Work closely with the local provider community to deliver high value care
 - ▶ Innovation in motion
- ▶ Member-friendly technology
- ▶ Alaska-Specific Customer Service Team
- ▶ Local Account Management and Support



Why RISQ Consulting?

- ▶ Originated from agency started 45 years ago in Anchorage
- ▶ RISQ Consulting consults more Alaskan small businesses than any other firm
- ▶ Assists more individuals and families with health insurance than any other firm in Alaska
- ▶ Largest brokerage firm in Alaska (70 employees statewide)
- ▶ Technology Consultant focused on benefits technology
 - ▶ Single employee self-service platform
 - ▶ Employee education
 - ▶ Administrative ease for employer participants by integrating employee elections, payroll deductions, and carrier connections for enrollments/terminations
 - ▶ Potential for consolidated billing
 - ▶ Streamlined compliance for health and welfare plans
- ▶ National network of agencies, including those with AHP experience
- ▶ Additional partners and vendor opportunities beyond medical and dental (ex: Life, Disability, ID Theft Protection, etc.)
- ▶ More than just “insurance brokers”



Becoming an Association Health Plan – Anticipated Timeline



Becoming an Association Health Plan

- ▶ Legal Obligations and Contractual Agreements
- ▶ Establishing eligibility of AHP Participants
 - ▶ Size of participants
 - ▶ Which Chamber(s) do participants need to belong to?
 - ▶ Termination and reentry provisions
- ▶ Establishing each partner's responsibilities and commitments
 - ▶ Alaska Chamber
 - ▶ RISQ Consulting
 - ▶ Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska
 - ▶ Other Program Partners (Health Advocacy, Technology, ID Theft Protection)



Becoming an Association Health Plan

- ▶ Establish Marketing Work Group
- ▶ Distribution Channels
- ▶ Establishing products
- ▶ Governing Body
 - ▶ Membership of Governing Body
 - ▶ Operating Guidelines of Governing Body
 - ▶ Establish Authority of Governing Body



Next Steps

- ▶ Alaska Chamber
- ▶ Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska
- ▶ RISQ Consulting

