

The logo for the North Carolina State Health Plan is centered at the top. It features a light blue semi-circular arch at the top. Inside the arch, the words "North Carolina" are written in a smaller, blue, serif font. Below that, "State Health Plan" is written in a larger, bold, blue, serif font. Underneath the arch, the text "for Teachers and State Employees" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo, the website address "www.shpnc.org" is written in a blue, sans-serif font, separated from the text above by a thin blue horizontal line.

North Carolina  
State Health Plan

for Teachers and State Employees

www.shpnc.org

## **COBRA Subsidy Extension**

On January 29, 2010, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina mailed the *COBRA Premium Assistance Extension Notice* and the *Amended Summary of the COBRA Premium Reduction Provisions under ARRA*, to current COBRA subsidy subscribers and those whose COBRA subsidy expired on November 30, 2009 & December 31, 2009. The documents provide details regarding the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (DDAA) that extended the COBRA premium subsidy originally established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The COBRA subsidy program extension:

- Expanded the ARRA's COBRA premium subsidy period from nine (9) to fifteen (15) months.
- Changed the end date for eligibility for the subsidy from December 31, 2009, to February 28, 2010.
- Clarified that an individual will be eligible for the subsidy if the qualifying event that makes such individual eligible for the subsidy occurs on or before February 28, 2010.

All of the documents that were mailed to members will be posted on the State Health Plan Web site at <http://www.shpnc.org/cobra-subsidy.html>

by next week. In addition, we have updated and attached the Application for Treatment as Assistance Eligible Individual and the FAQs and will post them to our Web site.

For additional information on ARRA go to the Department of Labor Web site at [www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/cobra.html) or the Internal Revenue Web site at [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204505,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204505,00.html)