



Central Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters' Welfare Fund

P.O. Box 1257, Troy, MI 48099
(800) 700-6756

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Upcoming Plan Changes Effective September 2025

1. Why are these changes being made?

The Trustees are implementing these changes to help strengthen the Fund's long-term stability and help ensure that future benefits remain available for all participants.

2. What is changing about the monthly premium?

Starting with the September 2025 eligibility month, the premium structure will be simplified:

- The current system of deducting a monthly premium from the Dollar Bank and requiring an additional amount, the "threshold," to be exceeded before additional dollars are credited to the Dollar Bank, will be replaced.
- There will no longer be a separate premium and threshold. Instead, there will be **one monthly premium of \$1,250** deducted from your Dollar Bank to maintain eligibility.

3. What is happening to the Dollar Bank?

The Dollar Bank will be divided into two separate accounts:

- **Eligibility Dollar Bank** – Used to maintain coverage eligibility.
- **Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA)** – Used for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses.

No participant will lose any of their current Dollar Bank balance.

4. How will my current Dollar Bank be divided?

As of July 30, 2025, the division will occur as follows:

- The lesser of the current Dollar Bank balance, or 3 months of premium (\$3,750) will go into your **Eligibility Dollar Bank**.

- Any balance above that will be split 50/50 between the Eligibility Dollar Bank and the MRA, unless this division results in more than 12 months' eligibility in the Dollar Bank in which case the Bank will be credited up to 12 months premium and the remaining amount will go to the MRA.

Examples are included in the notice for different Dollar Bank scenarios.

5. How will future contributions be allocated?

For work months **on or after July 2025**:

- **\$1 per hour** of contributions goes into your **MRA**.
- The remainder goes into your **Eligibility Dollar Bank**, up to a 12-month maximum. Eligibility Dollar Banks are capped at 12 months premium.

6. What happens if contributions are late (for months before July 2025)?

Late contributions will still be credited to the Eligibility Dollar Bank until it reaches 12 months of premiums. Any additional amounts will be credited to the MRA.

7. How will self-payments work?

If your monthly contributions and your Eligibility Dollar Bank do not cover the full \$1,250 monthly premium:

- The shortfall will be automatically withdrawn from your MRA (if funds are available).
- If the MRA balance does not cover the required self-payment, you will receive a self-pay notice and must pay the entire amount. You may apply whatever funds are in the MRA toward this payment.

8. What happens to my Eligibility Dollar Bank when I retire?

At retirement:

- The Eligibility Dollar Bank will terminate.
- An amount equal to the amount that was in your Bank will be credited to your MRA.
- Retirees must inform the Fund Office if they return to work.

- If Retiree returns to work, they must continue to make Retiree self-payments and will be reimbursed out of Contributions received up to the amount of the self-payment. Contributions designated for the MRA will be credited to the MRA.
- If a Retiree returns to work and ceases drawing a pension benefit and informs the Fund Office that he/she desires to re-establish eligibility as an Active Employee, then Contributions will be credited in the same manner as for Actives (i.e. to the Eligibility Dollar Bank and the MRA).

9. Can I lose my Eligibility Dollar Bank or MRA balances?

Yes, under certain conditions:

- **Eligibility Dollar Bank** will be forfeited if there are no contributions for 12 consecutive months.
- **MRA** will be forfeited if:
 - You're no longer eligible for coverage,
 - There is no activity (contributions or claims) for 3 years,
 - Or as deemed necessary by the Trustees under applicable law.

10. What is the Benny Card blackout period?

- **From July 30 to August 15, 2025**, the Benny Card will be temporarily deactivated to implement the changes.
- You should save receipts for any out-of-pocket expenses during this time and submit them for reimbursement after the blackout period ends.
- Avoid payment plans during this time, as finance charges are not reimbursable.

11. Will I receive new ID cards?

Yes, expect three new ID cards in addition to the Medical ID Cards previously mailed:

- **Dental/Vision/Hearing**: To be mailed mid-July 2025.
- **Prescription (Express Scripts)**: To be mailed in July 2025; required starting August 1, 2025.
- **MRA Benny Card**: Mailed in August 2025 with app/website info.

Former Niles participants with Medicare Supplemental coverage will receive new cards in mid-July.

12. What if I didn't receive my previous medical ID cards?

- **Actives and Non-Medicare Retirees:** Contact Independence at (833) 242-3330 or visit myibxtpabenefits.com.
- **Medicare Retirees:** Contact RetireeFirst at (216) 260-0988 or (833) 217-5306 (TTY 711).

13. Who can I contact with questions?

Please call the **Fund Office at (800) 700-6756** for assistance.