

**From:** [Gary Bleecker](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Health Insurance  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 12:39:30 PM

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This is my third email to the board requesting that prior employees be allowed to re-enter the health ins. Plan when changing jobs. Here's my situation! I retired from the City of Jefferson who at the time was in the state health ins. Plan But they discontinued membership and went with a county consortium health plan. I now work for the Village of Johnson Creek and I can't receive health benefits because my previous employer (City of Jefferson) no long is a member. I just feel it's very unfair to me because City of Jefferson is no longer in the plan I have NO control what the City of Jefferson does. Could I please receive a reply. Thanks for your time.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Department of Employee Trust Funds**  
A. John Voelker  
SECRETARY

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February 23, 2023

Gary Bleecker  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Bleecker:

Thank you for reaching out to the Group Insurance Board (Board) and the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) with questions about eligibility for local employees into the Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP). The GHIP is offered by the Board and is administered by ETF.

In your email, you wrote that you would like to rejoin the GHIP through your former employer, the City of Jefferson. This is not possible currently for a couple of reasons. First, you are not eligible to be enrolled in the GHIP through your former employer, the City of Jefferson, since, as you stated, they no longer participate in the GHIP. Additionally, you are not insured by them as a retiree. Furthermore, your current employer, the Village of Johnson Creek, a Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) participating local government employer, also does not participate in the GHIP.

Local governmental entities that join the GHIP can offer coverage to their WRS employees and insured retirees. (This is how you were insured in the GHIP with the City of Jefferson before they left for the consortium.) If a local employer chooses to leave the GHIP, all their employees and retirees lose eligibility under the law.

However, local employees who retire from a local WRS employer that does *not* participate in the GHIP, such as the Village of Johnson Creek, may be eligible to enroll in the Local Annuitant Health Program (LAHP). There are two opportunities for you to enroll in the LAHP if you retire from the Village of Johnson Creek. These are:

1. Within 60 days of termination of employment and the start of your WRS retirement annuity or receipt of a lump sum benefit, or
2. When you first enroll in Medicare Part B, typically when you turn age 65.

If you want more information about LAHP, you can review the [State of Wisconsin LAHP Fact Sheet](#) and/or the [2023 Health Benefits Decision Guide: LAHP for Certain Local Retirees and Surviving Dependents](#) (see Frequently Asked Questions 4 and 5 on pages 22–23).

I hope you have found this response helpful. If you have additional questions or

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concerns, please feel free to reach out using the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

Arlene Larson, Manager of Federal Program and Policy  
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Department of Employee Trust Funds  
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