

The Internal Revenue Service Feb. 26, in news release IR-2009-15, said it has released detailed information that will help employers claim credit for the medical premiums they pay for their former employees under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, or COBRA.

IRS said new information on its Web site includes an extensive set of questions and answers for employers and a revised version of the quarterly payroll tax return that employers will use to claim credit for the COBRA medical premiums they pay for their former employees.

In addition, IRS said, Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return, will be sent to about 2 million employers in mid-March. The form is used to claim the new COBRA premium assistance payments credit, beginning with the first quarter of 2009.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Pub. L. No. 111-5) includes changes to the health benefit provisions of COBRA, IRS noted.

More information about COBRA is available from IRS at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204505,00.html>.

Cobra: Answers for Employers: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204708,00.html>