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Pittsburgh Business Group on Health Launches "Benefits Bridge" to Help Small and Mid-Sized Employers Tackle Escalating Healthcare Costs

PITTSBURGH – October 24, 2023 – The Pittsburgh Business Group on Health (PBGH) today announces, "Benefits Bridge," a comprehensive shared-risk program aimed at providing proven, healthcare cost-saving solutions to smaller and mid-sized employers across the region.

According to Mike Stancil, CEO and president, PBGH, Benefits Bridge was created in response to requests from fully insured small to mid-size employers about the ongoing and relentless increases in healthcare costs placed on the backs of their businesses and employees.

Alone in 2023, a surge in annual healthcare costs for a family of four, covered by an employer plan, surpassed \$31,000. Reports indicate annual healthcare costs are expected to surge in 2024 by approximately 6.5 to 8.5 percent.

“These types of year-over-year increases are stifling and unsustainable, particularly for small-to-midsize businesses. The escalation cost smaller organizations must grapple with can be crippling to their growth, and in turn, the economic vitality of our region as business owners are forced to choose between healthcare for their workforce or investing in their businesses and communities. It’s a true economic hardship business leaders can now address, which is the opportunity Benefits Bridge provides.”

Benefits Bridge provides a financial solution by forming a risk pool among employers while delivering efficiency, best practices and the sharing of potential profits achieved through the program. It "bridges the gap" for companies that are currently fully insured, but it allows them to act as and get the benefits of larger, self-insured organizations. Effectively known as a captive insurance model, it aligns similar organizations across different industries, which then share a pooled risk associated with healthcare costs.

PBGH's partner in this transformative effort is BevCap, a Beyond Risk company, a trusted industry leader with a team deep in expertise in healthcare cost management. Participating employers in the Benefits Bridge program will benefit from BevCap’s knowledge in strategic planning, underwriting, analytics, reporting, healthcare reform, compliance, health management, corporate wellness and more.

“Benefits Bridge delivers a lifeline for employers seeking to regain control over their healthcare expenses,” said Jeff Marchino, executive vice president, BevCap. “This initiative helps business owners and their companies, but it also plays a pivotal role in revitalizing Pennsylvania by addressing systemic population decline, employee attraction and workforce retention challenges.”

Benefits Bridge offers several advantages for small to mid-size employers:

- **Price Stability** – Ensuring predictable, stable pricing, which also shields employers from unpredictable healthcare cost fluctuations.
- **Data and Reporting Transparency** – Giving employers access to comprehensive data and reporting, which will contribute to informed decision-making.
- **Peer-to-Peer Accountability** – a significant feature of the program, which requires accountability across members in an industry set to ensure cost metrics and management.
- **Outcome-Centric Results** – leveraging the power of lower, tightly managed costs while maintaining access to high-quality care.

Visit <https://pbghpa.org/benefitsbridge/> for more information or contact Jane Allen at jane.allen@pbghpa.org

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About the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health

Founded in 1981, the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health is a non-profit organization and business-only coalition representing employer-member companies. PBGH promotes health care and benefits strategies through education, collaboration and innovation among members, and in the community, to deliver value and quality for members and their employees. @pbghpa