

# Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Trust Funds

375 W. 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200 • P. O. Box 93870 (99509) • Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone (907) 561-5119 or (800) 478-8329 • Fax (907) 561-4802 • Website [www.akufcwtrust.com](http://www.akufcwtrust.com)

Administered by  
Labor Trust Services, Inc.

## **NOTICE OF CRITICAL STATUS**

For

**Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Pension Fund**

**April 20, 2021**

This is to inform you that on March 30, 2021 the Plan actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and also to the Plan sponsor, that the Alaska United Food and Commercial Workers Pension Fund (Plan) is in critical status for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2021. Federal law requires that you receive this notice.

### **Critical Status**

The Plan is considered to be in critical status because it has funding or liquidity problems, or both. More specifically, the Plan's actuary determined that the Plan was in critical status last year and over the next 9 years the Plan is projected to have an accumulated funding deficiency starting in the 2021 Plan Year.

### **Rehabilitation Plan**

Federal law requires pension plans in critical status to adopt a Rehabilitation Plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the Plan. This is the twelfth year the Plan has been in critical status. The law permits pension plans to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "adjustable benefits" as part of a Rehabilitation Plan. On April 29, 2010, you were notified that as of April 1, 2010, the Plan is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity) while it is in critical status. If the Trustees of the Plan determine that further benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions. Any reduction of adjustable benefits (other than a repeal of a recent benefit increase, as described below) will not reduce the level of a participant's basic benefit payable at normal retirement. In addition, the reductions only apply to participants and beneficiaries whose benefit commencement date is on or after April 30, 2010.

The most recent update to the Rehabilitation Plan was ratified on March 9, 2021. This update called for revisions in the future non-accruing contribution amounts required under the Rehabilitation Plan in an effort to secure the long term funding of the Plan.

### **Adjustable Benefits**

The following adjustable benefits were eliminated effective January 1, 2013, as part of the rehabilitation plan adopted by the Board of Trustees:

- Twenty-four month payment guarantee;
- Recent benefit increases;
- Early retirement subsidy;
- Pre-retirement death benefits other than a qualified 50% survivor annuity;
- Subsidized benefit payment options other than a qualified joint-and survivor annuity.

**NOTICE OF CRITICAL STATUS**  
**(CONTINUED)**

**Employer Surcharge**

The law requires that all contributing employers pay to the Plan a surcharge to help correct the Plan's financial situation. The amount of the surcharge is equal to a percentage of the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the Plan under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. With some exceptions, a 5% surcharge is applicable in the initial critical year and a 10% surcharge is applicable for each succeeding Plan Year thereafter in which the Plan is in critical status, until the applicable collective bargaining agreement includes terms consistent with an appropriate schedule pursuant to a rehabilitation plan.

**Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this Notice, you may contact the Welfare & Pension Administration Service, Inc. by telephone at (206) 441-7574 or by mail at 7525 SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Mercer Island WA 98040. You have a right to receive a copy of the Rehabilitation Plan from the Plan.

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