

# Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Sourcebook

2017-2018  
Plan Year

Commonwealth of Virginia

# Contents

<b>Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Overview</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Sign Up and Save with an Anthem FSA</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>FSA Eligibility</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>What's a Health FSA?</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Important Health FSA Rules</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Health FSA Expenses</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Reimbursement Requests</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Your Elite Visa® Benefit Card</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>What's a Dependent Care FSA?</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Important Dependent Care FSA Rules</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Important Dependent Care FSA Tax Information</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Reimbursement Requests for Dependent Care FSA</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Dependent Care Expenses</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Maximize Your FSA Experience - Register Your Account Online</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>FSA Worksheets</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Improper FSA Payments</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Changing Your Election</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Appeals</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Extended Coverage</b> .....	<b>14</b>

# Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Overview

A Flexible Spending Account (FSA) allows you to set aside money from your paycheck, before taxes, to use on qualified health care and dependent care expenses. You may elect to participate in the FSA during Open Enrollment, or within 60 days of a consistent qualifying mid-year event (QME). You choose the amount to set aside based on your anticipated eligible expenses. The money is deducted from your paycheck in equal amounts and placed in your FSA. Plan wisely on how much to set aside in your FSA account because you must use all the money during the plan year, or lose it.

You can elect to enroll in one or both of these FSAs:

	Health FSA	Dependent Care FSA
<b>Maximum amount you can put into the account each plan year</b>	\$2,600	\$5,000
<b>Eligible expenses</b> (see detailed list on pages 3 and 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriptions</li> <li>• Deductibles, coinsurance and copays</li> <li>• Dental care</li> <li>• Vision care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before- and after-school care</li> <li>• Child day care, adult care or elder care</li> <li>• Summer day camp</li> </ul>

All full and part-time classified employees and faculty members who are eligible for the State Health Benefits Program may participate in the FSA.

## Sign Up and Save with an FSA

A Flexible Spending Account (FSA) is a plan sponsored by the Commonwealth of Virginia that allows you to set aside a part of your income on a pre-tax basis for eligible health or dependent care expenses. The plan year begins July 1 and ends June 30. Your coverage period for incurring expenses is based on your participation in the program.

### Important Dates

**Plan year starts:** July 1, 2017

**Plan year ends:** June 30, 2018

**Last payroll deduction for plan year:** July 1, 2018

**Last day to incur eligible expenses:** June 30, 2018 or last day of your coverage period

**Last day to submit reimbursement requests and verification of outstanding card transactions:** September 30, 2018, or three months from the end of your coverage period

**Last day to use FSA card for July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 expenses:** June 30, 2018

## Get to know your FSA

Before you sign up, review this **FSA Sourcebook** to understand how you and your family can save. Once you decide how much to contribute to your Health FSA and/or Dependent Care FSA, the amount is deducted in equal amounts from your paychecks during the plan year.

The savings examples in this guide use a 30 percent tax rate. But your savings may vary based on your personal annual tax rate. Please consult your tax advisor for more details.

Your Health FSA funds are available to you at the beginning of your coverage period. Dependent Care FSA funds are only available as they are deducted from your paycheck. For both accounts, your funds are deducted before federal and state taxes are calculated on your paycheck.

With either account, you benefit because less of your paycheck is taxable, which means more spendable income.

## Administration Fee

If you choose to participate in one or both FSAs, only one monthly administration fee of \$3.65 will be deducted from your paychecks, on a pre-tax basis. (Note: If you are not paid on a 12-month basis, please see your Benefits Administrator for the applicable administration fees).

## The Use-it-or-lose-it Rule and Your Coverage Period

Timing is everything! FSAs have a start date and an end date, and the time in between is called the coverage period. The IRS has a “use-it-or-lose-it” rule that requires you to use all the money in your FSA toward eligible expenses by the end of the coverage period. Remaining FSA dollars won’t be returned to you. Funds do not roll over to the next plan year.

To keep from losing money, do a little homework. How much did you spend on health care expenses last year? Choose an election amount that’s close to what you think you’ll need during the plan year. Estimate your eligible **health care** expenses with our online calculator at [client.benefitadminsolutions.com/fsaestimator/](http://client.benefitadminsolutions.com/fsaestimator/).

Estimate your **dependent care** expenses at [benefitadminsolutions.com/dcapestimator/calculatedcap.aspx](http://benefitadminsolutions.com/dcapestimator/calculatedcap.aspx).

### FSA Questions?

**During Open Enrollment:** You’ll find helpful guides and FAQs online at [anthem.com/cova](http://anthem.com/cova). Or call **1-877-451-7244**, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET, to speak with an FSA member services representative.

**Starting July 1: If you are a new participant, register** for your online account at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](http://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem). If you already have an FSA but have not registered for your online account, you can register at anytime. Use your online account to monitor your purchases and account balance, submit reimbursement requests, and find helpful resources and plan details.

When you register, you’ll simply need to provide the account number provided in your **FSA Welcome Kit** (or your Social Security number), confirm your contact information and create a username and password. Your FSA Welcome Kit will be mailed to you in June.

## FSA Eligibility

All full and part-time classified and faculty employees who are eligible to participate in the State Health Benefits Program may participate in Health and Dependent Care FSAs. Changes to your employment status could affect your eligibility. For more information, contact your agency Benefits Administrator.

### New Hires

The initial election period is within 30 calendar days of your hire date or the date you become newly eligible for the State Health Benefits Program. If you enroll, your FSA will be effective the first of the month coinciding with or following the date of employment, or the date you become newly eligible for the State Health Benefits Program. No election changes are allowed after your FSA election has taken effect unless you experience a consistent qualifying mid-year event.

## What’s a Health FSA?

A Health FSA allows you to set aside part of your income on a pre-tax basis and then use that money to pay for eligible out-of-pocket health care expenses for you, your spouse and your dependents.

With a Health FSA, you can reduce your taxes and increase your take-home pay. That’s because you can use pre-tax dollars to pay for eligible health care expenses like copays and coinsurance that you may now be paying for with post tax dollars.

### Save Money with a Health FSA

Your FSA contributions are deducted from your paycheck before taxes are taken out. How much you save depends on your income tax bracket. For example, if you’re in a 30 percent tax bracket, you can save \$30 for every \$100 that you put into your FSA. So if you put \$1,000 into your Health FSA, you increase your annual take-home pay by \$300.\*

To see the full benefit of having an FSA, check out this savings example (*assumes 30% tax bracket*):

Salary . . . . .	\$40,000/year
Taxes paid with no FSA . . . . .	\$12,000
FSA contribution . . . . .	\$2,600
Taxes paid with FSA . . . . .	\$11,220
Take home pay . . . . .	\$26,180
<b>Extra cash from FSA savings . . . . .</b>	<b>\$780</b>

*\*FSA contributions are deducted before federal and most state taxes. Savings vary depending on your tax bracket. Check with your tax advisor for details regarding your state taxes and your potential tax savings.*

### Health FSAs

Your Health FSA may be used to reimburse eligible health care expenses incurred by:

- yourself
- your spouse
- your qualifying child or
- your qualifying relative.

An individual is a **qualifying adult child** if they do not attain age 27 during your taxable year and they have the following relationship to you:

- son/daughter or stepson/daughter
- eligible foster child
- legally adopted child or legally placed with taxpayer for adoption

An individual is a **qualifying child** if they are not someone else’s qualifying child and:

- are a U.S. citizen, national or a resident of the U.S., Mexico or Canada
- have a specified family-type relationship to you

An individual is a **qualifying relative** if they are a U.S. citizen, national or a resident of the U.S., Mexico or Canada and:

- have a specified family-type relationship to you, are not someone else's qualifying child and receive more than one-half of their support from you during the taxable year, or
- if no specified family-type relationship to you exists, are a member of and live in your household (without violating local law) for the entire taxable year and receive more than one-half of their support from you during the taxable year.

**Note:** There is no age requirement for a qualifying child if they are physically and/or mentally incapable of self-care.

An eligible child of divorced parents is treated as a dependent of both, so either or both parents can establish a Health FSA.

## Important Health FSA Rules

### Contributions

The total amount you contribute to an FSA each year is called an "annual election." You can elect up to \$2,600 per plan year (in whole dollar amounts). The minimum enrollment requirement is \$10.00 per pay period.

Your full Health FSA election amount is available on the first day of your coverage period, but your contributions will be taken out of your paycheck in equal amounts during your coverage period.

### Transferring Funds

- Funds cannot be transferred between FSAs.
- You cannot pay a dependent care expense from your Health FSA or vice-versa.
- You cannot transfer funds to your spouse's FSA or an FSA you may have in the upcoming plan year.

### Incurred Expenses

Your eligible Health FSA expenses must be incurred during the coverage period. This means the medical treatment or services must take place during the coverage period, not when you are billed or pay for the care you received.

### Double-dipping

Expenses reimbursed under your Health FSA can't be reimbursed under any other plan or program. Only your out-of-pocket health care expenses are eligible for reimbursement. Plus, expenses reimbursed under a Health FSA can't be deducted when you file your tax return.

### Election Changes

Your election can't be changed during the plan year unless you have a change in status or other qualifying mid-year event that's defined by IRS rules. Qualified changes in status may include:

- A change in legal marital status (marriage, divorce or death of your spouse)
- A change in the number of your dependents (birth or adoption of a child, or death of a dependent)
- A change in your employment status, or the employment status of your spouse or dependent
- An event causing your dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy an eligibility requirement for benefits

Generally, two things decide if an election change is permitted. First, you must experience a change in status or other qualifying event. Second, your requested change must be consistent with the event. For example, if you have a baby, you may want to increase your election amount. Divorce from a spouse may allow you to decrease your election.

### Termination

If you stop working for the Commonwealth of Virginia or lose your FSA eligibility, your plan participation and your pre-tax contributions will stop at the end of the month. Expenses for services you have after your plan termination date are not eligible for reimbursement. Health FSAs are eligible for account continuation under Extended Coverage.

**Note:** You have three months from your account termination date to submit reimbursement requests for eligible expenses incurred during your coverage period.

## Health FSA Expenses

Only eligible expenses can be reimbursed under the FSA. These include eligible health care expenses for you, your spouse, and your dependents. Your FSA plan expenses are defined by IRS rules and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Eligible Health FSA expenses are those you pay for out of your pocket for medical care. Generally, IRS rules state that medical care is meant to diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat, or prevent illness or disease. Transportation that is primarily for medical care is also included.

### Typical FSA-Eligible Expenses

Use your FSA to save on hundreds of products and services for you and your family. Eligible expenses are defined by the IRS and your employer. To be an eligible expense, the item or service must be prescribed by a doctor to treat a diagnosed medical condition and appropriate documentation must be provided. Please ask your doctor to complete the Medical Determination Form that is available in your online account. For details and more eligible expenses, visit: [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem).

### Eligible medical expenses

- Acupuncture
- Ambulance service
- Birth control pills and devices (requires prescription)
- Breast pumps

- Chiropractic care
- Contact lenses (corrective)
- Dental fees (other than cosmetic)
- Diagnostic tests/health screening
- Doctor fees
- Drug addiction/alcoholism treatment
- Experimental medical treatment\*
- Eyeglasses
- Guide dogs
- Hearing aids and exams
- In vitro fertilization\*
- Nursing services
- Optometrist fees
- Orthodontic treatment
- Over-the-counter medicines (requires prescription)
- Over-the-counter supplies
- Prescription drugs
- Smoking cessation programs/treatments
- Surgery (other than cosmetic)
- Transportation/travel expenses for medical care (including mileage, tolls and parking)
- Weight-loss programs\*/meetings\*
- Wheelchairs, crutches and walkers
- X-rays

\*Requires Medical Determination Form that's available from your online account. Or call 1-877-451-7244 to obtain the form by mail or e-mail.

## Ineligible Expenses

Expenses that are not approved are called "ineligible expenses." Ineligible Health FSA expenses include:

- Cosmetic surgery and procedures, including teeth whitening
- Herbs, vitamins and supplements used for general health.
- Insurance premiums
- Personal use items such as toothpaste, shaving cream and makeup
- Prescription drugs imported from another country

Also, you can't use your FSA funds for:

- Services that take place before or after your coverage period
- Expenses that are reimbursed by another plan or program, including a health care plan

## Special Rules for Orthodontia Expenses

Orthodontic services aren't provided the same way as other types of health care. Most of the time, they're provided over a long period of time and may extend beyond the plan year. Orthodontic services tend to be hard to match up with actual costs. As a result, the reimbursement process is different.

You have two ways to be reimbursed:

### 1. Entire cost of treatment

This method allows you to be reimbursed for the full amount of the orthodontia contract. You can do this only if you paid the full amount during the plan year. To get reimbursed, send in these items:

- Completed reimbursement request form.
- Proof of payment for the entire contract, including start date and expected end date.
- Proof of payment made during the applicable plan year in which you are requesting reimbursement.

### 2. Periodic approach

This method allows you to be reimbursed for the first round of treatment (usually called banding fees) and then monthly reimbursement after that. To get reimbursed for banding fees, submit:

- Completed reimbursement request form.
- Your treatment plan or itemized statement that includes the start date and the expected end date.
- Proof of the initial down payment.

After you submit the first reimbursement request, send in these items for periodic reimbursement:

- Completed reimbursement request form.
- An itemized statement or monthly coupons from the orthodontist.
- Proof of the periodic payment.

## Reimbursement Requests

Eligible expenses you incur during the plan year can be reimbursed through your Health FSA by submitting a completed Request for Reimbursement Form, along with proper supporting documentation. Acceptable documentation includes:

- **For office visits, hospitalization, or other services:** A health plan Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or an itemized statement from the provider that includes the patient's name, a description of the service, the original date of service and your portion of the charge.
- **For prescription drugs:** A pharmacy statement or printout including the patient's name, the Rx number, the name of the drug, the date the prescription was filled and the amount.
- **For over-the-counter medicines:** A written or electronic over-the-counter (OTC) prescription along with an itemized cash register receipt that includes the merchant name, name of the OTC medicine or drug, purchase date and amount; OR a printed pharmacy statement or receipt that includes the patient's name, the Rx number, the date the prescription was filled and the amount.

- **For over-the-counter health care related items:** An itemized cash register receipt with the merchant name, name of the item, date and amount.

**Note:** Credit card receipts, canceled checks and balance forward statements do not meet the requirements for acceptable documentation.

## Reimbursement Payments

Your Health FSA has a daily payment schedule. With this schedule, there is no additional waiting period for reimbursements. Once your request has been reviewed and approved, your payment is scheduled and your reimbursement is issued within the next business day.

## Reimbursement Deadlines

Expenses submitted for reimbursement through your Health FSA must be incurred during the coverage period. Your Health FSA also includes a run-out period. The run-out period is a three month predetermined period following the end of the plan year or the end of your coverage period. During this time, you may file claims for expenses incurred during the coverage period. Claims must be postmarked by the end of the run-out period. After the run-out period ends, you will lose any unused dollars left in your Health FSA.

You can submit an online claim or find forms by logging in to your account at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem).

## Your Elite Visa® Benefit Card



One of the best features of your Health FSA is the Elite Visa Benefit Card, which gives you easy access to your Health FSA funds. It's the easiest way to pay! Use your card to pay for your eligible Health FSA expenses at qualifying health care providers and merchants that accept Visa®.

If you are a new participant, your card will be mailed to you. Call the toll-free number on the sticker on the front of the card and then follow the prompts. Once you activate your card, sign your name on the back and then you're ready to go. If you already have a card, continue to use that card through the expiration date.

Participants automatically receive a new card when the current card expires. Cards for dependents are also reissued when a participant card expires.

## Using Your Benefit Card

If you are a new participant, your benefit card makes paying for eligible health care expenses easy with quick access to your Health FSA funds. There's no more waiting on a reimbursement check since your eligible expense is paid right away. There's also less paperwork when you use your card.

You may use your card at health care providers or merchants that have health care-related merchant category codes. These include doctors, dentists, vision care offices, hospitals and other health care providers. You can also use your card at grocery stores, discount stores and drugstores that use an Inventory Information Approval System (IIAS).

You may not use your benefit card at any merchant that does not have a health care-related merchant category code unless that merchant utilizes an IIAS. If you're not sure if the merchant has an IIAS, just ask. You can also log in to your online account and find a list of IIAS merchants under the My Resources tab.

**Important: You may not use your card after June 30 to pay for expenses from the previous plan year. You may only use your card for expenses incurred on or after July 1 of each plan year. File paper claims for the previous plan year's expenses after June 30.**

When using your card, the amount of the purchase is automatically taken from your Health FSA, and the money is transferred instantly to the provider or merchant. The card system will confirm your account status, the status of your benefit card, the merchant category code and the funds that are in your Health FSA.

## Paying for Over-the-counter (OTC) Medicines

Due to IRS rules, you can use your benefit card to buy OTC medicines only if your doctor has prescribed them and you give the written or electronic prescription to a pharmacist. The pharmacist will assign the Rx number, just like a normal prescription.

If you don't have a prescription before you pay for an OTC drug, you must buy it using some other form of payment. Afterward, submit the itemized receipt, the doctor's prescription, and a completed Request for Reimbursement Form to Anthem.

## Paying for Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

When you use your benefit card at an IIAS merchant, you may pay only for those items identified on a list of eligible expenses maintained by the merchant. You don't have to keep track of which items qualify. The IIAS process will do that for you.

Here's an example. Let's say you go to a grocery store pharmacy that uses an IIAS. You need to fill a regular prescription, and you also want to get aspirin, which your doctor has prescribed for you. You first head to the pharmacy to turn in both prescriptions. Then you pick up bandages, gauze and hand sanitizer. Use your benefit card to pay for the eligible expenses: your regular prescription and the prescribed aspirin, bandages and gauze. You may not use the card for hand sanitizer because it's not an allowed expense. You will need to pay for it in another way (cash, credit or debit card, etc.).

## Save Your Receipts

Some benefit card expenses are approved without the need for supporting documentation. IRS rules require us to review all card purchases. That means you may need to send us proof of your card purchases if we ask for it. You must keep copies of all itemized receipts and other supporting documentation (not the credit card receipt) for each card purchase. It's the same documentation that's listed on page 4.

## Disputing a Benefit Card Transaction

Visa allows 60 days from the transaction date to dispute a charge. Call **1-877-233-7040** to request a Benefit Card Dispute Form.

## Real-time Alerts

Be sure to sign up to receive Real-time Alerts via e-mail. Simply log in to your online account, click the Real-time Alerts quick link, and then follow the prompts. You'll get instant messages about your benefit card account. This feature helps you stay in tune with your FSA throughout the plan year.

## Card Activity Statement

If you have registered, a benefit card statement is provided in your online account each month that you have a new card transaction, a resolved transaction or a transaction that requires further action. If you have not registered to set up your online account, you will automatically receive a paper statement in the mail. For timely notice, Anthem will e-mail card activity statements. Be sure that we have your correct e-mail address by logging in to your online account at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem).

Your monthly card activity statement will include a summary of your card activity. It will also include a Return Form that you can use for transactions requiring action. Follow the directions on the Return Form and submit it with your supporting documentation by the date noted on the form.

If you do not send in your supporting documentation or repay the plan for ineligible transactions by that date, your card will be suspended. Any paper claims submitted after that date will be used toward the balance you owe. Remember, it's easy to make a payment instantly through your online account. *Failure to clear all unresolved transactions may result in the amount being deducted from your pay or you may pay more in taxes.*

## When Documentation Isn't Required

Most card purchases are automatically approved, and there's no need for supporting documentation. Some examples include:

- **IIAS-Approved Expense:** You buy eligible items at a grocery store, discount store or drugstore that is an IIAS merchant.
- **Copay Matching:** The FSA expense matches a specific copay under your employer's medical, vision, or dental plan. The eligible expense will be automatically approved if the amount is no more than five times the co-pay amount.
- **Recurring Expense:** This is the same as an expense that's already been approved. That is, the cost, timing, and medical office are the same.
- **Electronic File:** In some situations, your health, dental or vision plan will send your claim information electronically.

## Online Tip

Fill out an online Return Form and upload supporting documents through your online account. It's the quickest way to clear up transactions that need to be resolved.

**Please note:** Save all itemized receipts every time you use your benefit card. Do this even if you think the expense meets the above standards.

## Lost Receipts and Ineligible Transactions

If you are asked to send in supporting documentation and can't find your receipt, please ask for a copy from your doctor or pharmacist. You may find statements and Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) on your health plan's website. You should keep original receipts for OTC purchases since stores rarely keep those copies.

If your benefit card is misused to pay for an ineligible expense, you will need to pay back the plan out of your own pocket. If you do not pay back the plan by the due date, your benefit card will be deactivated. In addition, any request for reimbursement for paper claims you submit after that date will be used to pay the balance you owe the plan. Failure to clear unresolved transactions may result in the amount being deducted from your pay or you may pay more in taxes.

A process known as "offsetting" can help clear up unresolved transactions. To offset, you send in supporting documentation for another eligible expense that you've paid out of your pocket. This will cover the cost of the unresolved transaction. It's easy to do. On the Return Form, choose the Offset checkbox and follow the steps.

## Tax Consequences

If you do not pay back your plan or offset your unresolved card transactions by the plan's deadline and before your run-out period ends, the unresolved amount may be withheld from your pay or you may owe more in taxes. The Commonwealth of Virginia will reclassify unresolved amounts that you owe the FSA that are not withheld from your pay as taxable income. This amount will be added to your Form W-2 for the applicable tax year.

**Important: If your benefit card is suspended, you cannot use it to access funds from your FSA until you clear up all unresolved transactions that have an expired deactivation deadline.**

## Online Tip

The quickest way to pay back your FSA is through your online account at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem). Online payments can easily clear up all unresolved transactions. If your benefit card has been suspended, it will be reactivated when the online payment clears.

## Card Termination

Your benefit card will be deactivated when your FSA terminates. If you have incurred qualified expenses prior to your account termination date, you should file a paper claim for those expenses. Do this by sending in a Request for Reimbursement Form along with the supporting documents. Plus, if you have unresolved benefit card transactions requiring action, you will need to clear them to avoid paying additional taxes.

You have three months from the end of your coverage period to submit reimbursement and verify unresolved card transactions. Keep in mind that your allowed purchases must have been incurred during your coverage period.

*The Elite Benefit Card is issued by UMB Bank, N.A. pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. and regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. FSA services are administered by CONEXIS, a division of WageWorks, Inc.*

## What's a Dependent Care FSA?

A Dependent Care FSA is a plan sponsored by the Commonwealth of Virginia that allows you to set aside part of your income on a pre-tax basis to pay for eligible dependent care expenses throughout the coverage period. You save money on expenses you're already paying for, like child care and preschool.

### Save Money with a Dependent Care FSA

If you have young children or dependent relatives, who are considered "qualifying individuals," you can benefit from this plan. Setting aside pre-tax dollars means you pay fewer taxes and increase your take-home pay. You also save money on expenses that you're paying for out of your pocket. How much you save depends on your tax bracket. For example, if you're in the 30 percent tax bracket, you can save \$30 on every \$100\* spent on eligible expenses like babysitting, after-school care, elder day care and much more. Find a full list of eligible FSA expenses at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](http://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem).

To see the full benefit of having an FSA, check out this savings example (assumes 30% tax bracket):

Salary .....	\$40,000/year
Taxes paid with no FSA .....	\$12,000
FSA contribution .....	\$5,000
Taxes paid with FSA .....	\$10,500
Take home pay .....	\$24,500
<b>Extra cash from FSA savings .....</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>

\* FSA contributions are deducted before federal and most state taxes. Savings vary depending on your tax bracket. Check with your tax advisor for details regarding your state taxes and your potential tax savings.

## Dependent Care FSAs

You may use your Dependent Care FSA to receive reimbursement for eligible dependent care expenses for

qualifying individuals. A qualifying individual includes a qualifying child, if they:

- are a U.S. citizen, national or a resident of the U.S., Mexico or Canada
- have a specified family-type relationship to you
- live in your household for more than half of the taxable year
- are under the age of 13 years old
- have not provided more than one-half of their own support during the taxable year.

A qualifying individual includes your **spouse**, if they:

- are physically and/or mentally incapable of self-care
- live in your household for more than half of the taxable year and
- spend at least eight hours per day in your home.

A qualifying individual includes your **qualifying relative**, if they:

- are a U.S. citizen, national or a resident of the U.S., Mexico or Canada
- are physically and/or mentally incapable of self-care
- are not someone else's qualifying child
- live in your household for more than half of the taxable year
- spend at least eight hours per day in your home and
- receive more than one-half of their support from you during the taxable year.

**Note:** Only the custodial parent of divorced or legally-separated parents can be reimbursed using the Dependent Care FSA.

## Important Dependent Care FSA Rules

### Qualifying Individuals

Your dependent care expenses must be for a qualifying individual. A qualifying individual is:

- Your dependent child under the age of 13 who lives with you for more than half the year.
- Your spouse or other qualifying dependent that is physically or mentally incapable of self-care and lives with you for more than half the year.

### Work-related Expenses

The care provided to your dependent must be so you (and your spouse if you're married) can work or look for work. "Work" may include actively looking for a job. It doesn't include unpaid volunteer work or volunteer work for a nominal salary. Your spouse is considered to have worked if he or she is a full-time student for at least five calendar months during the tax year or if he or she is incapable of self care.

If you're sick, the fees you pay for dependent care when you aren't working generally are not eligible for reimbursement. But, there is an exception to this rule. Temporary absences from work may be disregarded if you have to pay for dependent care expenses during your illness. Whether an absence is for a short

time depends on the situation but, as a rule, the IRS says that an absence of up to two weeks in a row due to illness or vacation is a short-term or temporary absence.

## Part-time Employees

As a rule, you must divide expenses between the days you work and the days you don't. However, if you work part-time but are required to pay for dependent care expenses for a specific time frame (including non-working days), you do not have to allocate expenses between days worked and days not worked. Check out these examples.

**Allocation required** – For example, you work three days a week and choose to put your child in day care five days a week to help you stay gainfully employed. Your cost for the childcare is \$50 per day and \$250 for the week. Because you work part-time and are not required to pay the full \$250 expense, you must allocate your expenses according to your days worked. In this case, your allocated expenses equal \$150 (\$50 per day for the three days worked).

**Allocation not required** – The facts are the same as above, but in this case, the day care requires you to pay the full \$250 weekly fee no matter how many days of the week your child is there. Here, the full \$250 expense may be considered an employment-related expense and allocation of the expense based on days worked is not required.

## Contributions

The total amount you contribute to an FSA each year is called an “annual election.” You can elect up to \$5,000 (in whole dollar amounts) for the plan year. If you're married and file separate tax returns, the maximum is \$2,500. The minimum enrollment requirement is \$10.00 per pay period.

Your annual contribution cannot be more than the earned income limit.

- If you are single, the earned income limit is your salary.
- If you are married, the earned income limit is the salary that is the lowest – either your salary (minus your Dependent Care FSA contribution) or your spouse's salary.
- If you are married and file a joint tax return, your combined maximum election amount is \$5,000. As mentioned, if you are married but filing separate tax returns, the maximum amount is \$2,500.

## Available Funds

While a Health FSA allows access to your entire election amount on the first day of the coverage period, a Dependent Care FSA does not. Your total Dependent Care FSA election amount is deducted from your paycheck in equal amounts throughout the coverage period. You can use your Dependent Care FSA funds during the coverage period as long as funds are in your account.

## Double-Dipping

Expenses reimbursed under your Dependent Care FSA can't be reimbursed under your spouse's Dependent Care FSA and

vice versa. You can't “double-dip” from both accounts for the same expenses.

## Election Changes

Your election can't be changed during the plan year unless you have a change in status or other qualifying mid-year event that's defined by IRS rules. Qualified changes in status may include:

- A change in legal marital status (marriage, divorce, or death of your spouse).
- A change in the number of your dependents (birth or adoption of a child, or death of a dependent).
- A change in your employment status, or the employment status of your spouse or dependent.
- An event causing your dependent to satisfy or cease to satisfy an eligibility requirement for benefits.

Generally, two things decide if an election change is permitted. First, you must experience a change in status or other qualified event. Second, your requested change must be consistent with the event. For example, if you have a baby, you may want to increase your election amount. In addition, a child's eligibility as a dependent ends on the day before his or her 13th birthday – not at the end of the month. At this time, you may request an election change and decrease your election or terminate your participation in the Dependent Care FSA plan. Your change will be effective the first of the month following receipt of the election request.

**Please note:** Expenses incurred on or after the child's 13th birthday may not be reimbursed.

## Termination

If you stop working for the Commonwealth of Virginia or lose your FSA eligibility, your plan participation and your pre-tax contributions will stop at the end of the month. Expenses for services you have after your plan termination date are not eligible for reimbursement. Unlike the Health FSA, the Dependent Care FSA is not eligible for continuation under Extended Coverage.

**Note:** You have three months from your termination date to submit reimbursement requests for eligible expenses incurred prior to your termination.

## Estimate Your Savings

To keep from losing money, do a little homework. How much did you spend on dependent care expenses last year? Choose an election amount that's close to what you plan to spend during the plan year. Estimate your eligible expenses by using our savings calculator at:

[client.benefitadminsolutions.com/fsaestimator/](http://client.benefitadminsolutions.com/fsaestimator/)

# Important Dependent Care FSA Tax Information

## Reporting Requirements

When participating in a Dependent Care FSA, you must identify all persons or organizations that provide care for your child or dependent. You do this by filing IRS Form 2441 - Child and Dependent Care Expenses, along with your Form 1040 each year (or Schedule 2 for Form 1040A). Please note that filing requirements are subject to change by the IRS. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

## The Dependent Care FSA vs. the Dependent Care Tax Credit

You can't claim any other tax benefit for the tax-free amounts that you receive under the Dependent Care FSA. This is the case even though the balance of your eligible, work-related dependent care expenses (if any) may be eligible for the dependent care credit. In limited situations, it may be to your benefit to take advantage of the tax credit rather than participate in the Dependent Care FSA. Be sure to talk to your tax advisor for advice.

## Reimbursement Requests for Dependent Care FSA

Eligible expenses you incur during the plan year can be reimbursed through your Dependent Care FSA by submitting a completed Request for Reimbursement Form. Two things to consider first:

- Did the provider sign the certification section on the form? If so, just send us the completed form.
- If the provider certification is not completed and signed, you must submit an itemized statement from your dependent care provider. This statement must have the dates of service, the name and birth date of each dependent, an itemization of charges, and the provider's name, address, and Tax ID or Social Security number.

## Reimbursement Payments

Your Dependent Care FSA plan has a daily payment schedule. With this schedule, there is no additional waiting period for reimbursements. Once your request has been reviewed and approved, your payment is scheduled and your reimbursement is issued the next business day.

If your reimbursement request exceeds your account balance, your FSA will pay up to the amount available in your account, and pay the outstanding amount once additional funds are available.

## Reimbursement Deadlines

Expenses submitted for reimbursement through your Dependent Care FSA must be incurred during your coverage period. Your Dependent Care FSA also includes a run-out period. The run-out period is a three month predetermined period following the end of the plan year or the end of your coverage period. During this time, you may file claims for expenses incurred during your coverage period. Claims must be postmarked by the run-out period deadline. After the run-out period ends, you will lose any unused dollars left in your Dependent Care FSA.

## Dependent Care Expenses

The IRS defines eligible expenses as those incurred for the care of one or more eligible dependent children or relatives. Typical eligible expenses include:

- Child day care
- Before and after-school care
- Preschool or nursery school
- Extended day programs
- Au pair services (amounts paid for the actual care of the dependent)
- Babysitter (in or out of your home)
- Nanny services (amounts paid for the actual care of the dependent)
- Summer day camp for your qualifying child under the age of 13
- Elder day care for a qualifying individual

These are examples of ineligible expenses:

- Money paid to your spouse, your child under age 19, a parent of your child who is not your spouse, or a person who you or your spouse is entitled to a personal tax exemption as a dependent
- Expenses related to care for a disabled spouse or tax dependent living outside your home
- Educational expenses (such as summer school and tutoring programs)
- Tuition for kindergarten and later grades
- Food expenses (unless it can't be separated from care)
- Incidental expenses (such as extra charges for supplies, special events or activities, unless it can't be separated from care)
- Overnight camp
- Expenses related to a dependent's medical care

For a complete list of eligible and ineligible expenses, log in to your online account at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem).

# Maximize Your FSA Experience – Register Your Account Online

Maximize your FSA experience. Register your FSA account online. New participants, be sure to register at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem) as soon as you receive your FSA Welcome Kit. If you are an existing participant and you re-enroll for the new plan year, you may continue to use your online account and your new election will be active July 1.

New participants, take advantage of our savings calculators which are available at [anthem.com/cova](https://anthem.com/cova) for your use prior to enrollment. After you enroll and your plan goes into effect on July 1, the calculators will be available at [client.benefitadminsolutions.com/fsaestimator/](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/fsaestimator/) for the Health FSA, and at [benefitadminsolutions.com/dcapestimator/calculatedcap.aspx](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/dcapestimator/calculatedcap.aspx) for the Dependent Care FSA. These tools can help you decide your election amount for the plan year and estimate how much you'll save. You can also review lists of eligible expenses, get answers to frequently asked questions, and much more.

## Your Online Account

For new participants, starting July 1, you can manage your account by registering and logging in at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem), click Employee & Participant Login, and then follow the prompts to register. Your online account is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Current participants can continue to use the online account and tools, and your new plan year election will activate on July 1.

## Reimbursement Requests

You can request reimbursement by completing a Request for Reimbursement Form and submitting it along with supporting documentation. The easiest way to do this is through your online account. You can also submit a claim by fax at **1-888-347-5212**, or by mail to Anthem FSA, P. O. Box 660165, Dallas, TX 75266-0165. To find a form and get more details, simply log in at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem).

## Keeping Up with Your FSA

Your account information is available at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem). You can log in to check your real-time account balance and see your account activity. Plus, each time we issue a reimbursement, you will receive an online Explanation of Benefits (EOB) that shows your current account balance.

## Direct Deposit

Direct Deposit delivers your reimbursements directly into your bank account. You may elect Direct Deposit when setting up your profile at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem). If you have limited or no access to the internet and wish to sign up for Direct Deposit, call Anthem FSA at **1-877-451-7244**, and a representative will be happy to fax or mail a Direct Deposit form to you. During the Open Enrollment period, the form is also available at [anthem.com/cova](https://anthem.com/cova).

## We're Here to Help

Have a question? We'll be happy to answer it. You can send a message through the Message Center in your online account. Or if you prefer, just call us toll-free at **1-877-451-7244**. Our participant service advocates are available Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. You may also use this phone number to check your account balance at any time and get other helpful plan information.

# FSA Worksheets

How much you save depends on how much you spend on health and dependent care, and on your tax situation.

To estimate your expenses and see for yourself how your savings can add up, use the savings calculators at:

[client.benefitadmin.com/fsaestimator/](http://client.benefitadmin.com/fsaestimator/) for the Health FSA, and at [benefitadmin.com/dcapestimator/calculatedcap.aspx](http://benefitadmin.com/dcapestimator/calculatedcap.aspx) for the Dependent Care FSA.

If you prefer, use the worksheets below to determine how much to contribute to your account(s). Calculate the amount you expect to pay during the plan year for eligible out-of-pocket medical and/or dependent care expenses. This calculated amount cannot exceed established IRS and plan limits.

**Be conservative in your estimates, since any money remaining in your accounts cannot be returned to you.**

## Health FSA Worksheet

Estimate your eligible, uninsured out-of-pocket medical expenses for the plan year. IRS contribution limits for the health FSA are based on the plan year (July 1 - June 30), not the calendar year.

### UNINSURED MEDICAL EXPENSES

Health insurance deductibles \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Coinurance or co-payments \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vision care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dental care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription drugs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Travel costs for medical care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other eligible expenses \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**  
(IRS contribution limit: Up to \$2,600) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVIDE** by the number of paychecks you will receive during your coverage period ÷ \_\_\_\_\_

**This is your pay period contribution** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(whole dollar amounts only)

## Dependent Care Worksheet

Estimate your eligible dependent care expenses for the plan year. Remember that your calculated amount cannot exceed the calendar year limits established by the IRS.

### CHILD CARE EXPENSES

Day care services \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In-home care/au pair services \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Nursery and preschool \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After-school care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Summer day camps \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ELDER CARE SERVICES

Day care center \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In-home care \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**  
(IRS contribution limit: Up to \$5,000, depending on how your taxes are filed) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DIVIDE** by the number of paychecks you will receive during your coverage period ÷ \_\_\_\_\_

**This is your pay period contribution** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(whole dollar amounts only)

## Improper FSA Payments

Since FSAs are regulated by IRS rules, you must resolve any improper FSA payments of claims (Health FSA claims, Elite Visa® Benefit Card transactions, and Dependent Care FSA claims) to avoid the Commonwealth of Virginia taking further action.

### Examples of Improper FSA Payments

- **Health FSA claims:** Let's say you submit supporting documentation for benefit card transactions, but you use a Request for Reimbursement Form instead of a Return Form. If a Health FSA claim is improperly paid as a duplicate reimbursement, you will need to repay the FSA plan.
- **Benefit card transactions:** At the doctor's office, you swipe your benefit card for health care services provided. However, the charges included an expense from the previous FSA plan year, which is an ineligible expense. If you have a benefit card transaction that is improperly paid for an ineligible expense, you will need to pay back the FSA plan.
- **Dependent Care FSA claims:** Suppose that you stop working for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Any Dependent Care FSA claims improperly reimbursed due to retroactive changes in eligibility will need to be paid back to the FSA plan.

### ATTENTION! Steps to Correct Improper FSA Payments

Failure to resolve improper payments has consequences, such as the suspension of your benefit card and withholding the amount you owe from your pay.

- If you receive a notice about an improper FSA payment, just follow the instructions for paying back the FSA plan out of your own pocket or by offsetting the amount due with another eligible expense that you haven't submitted for reimbursement;
- If the notice you receive applies to your benefit card and you do not pay back the plan by the due date listed, your benefit card will be deactivated and any reimbursement for paper claims you submit after that date will be used to pay the balance you owe the plan; or
- The Commonwealth of Virginia may withhold the amount of the improper payment from your pay or other compensation allowed by applicable law; or
- The Commonwealth of Virginia will reclassify the amount you owe the FSA plan as taxable income if you don't pay back your FSA plan or offset the amount you owe before the run-out period ends. Your Form W-2 for the applicable tax year will include the amount you owe the FSA plan.

## Changing Your Election

You can enroll in or change your Flexible Spending Account (FSA) election(s), or vary your salary reduction amounts you have selected during the plan year, only under limited circumstances as provided by your state health plan and established IRS guidelines. Within 60 calendar days of a qualifying event, you must submit an election change request and supporting documentation to your agency Benefits Administrator. Election changes must be consistent with the event. Your employer will review, on a uniform and consistent basis, the facts and circumstances of each properly completed and timely submitted mid-plan year election change request. Upon the approval of your request, your existing FSA election(s) will be stopped or modified (as appropriate). You may not change your election after the effective date, unless you experience a qualifying mid-year event. A few examples of qualifying mid-year events include:

- Change in **marital status**.
- A change in **number of dependents** includes birth, death, adoption and placement for adoption.
- Change in **employment status** of the employee, or a spouse or dependent of the employee that affects the individual's eligibility under an employer's plan, including commencement or termination of employment.
- An event that causes the **gain or loss of a dependent's eligibility** status.
- Change in dependent care providers or a change in the cost of dependent care services. However, if a relative (who is related by blood or marriage) provides custodial care for your eligible dependent, you cannot change your salary reduction amount solely on a desire to increase or decrease the amount being paid to that relative.

When you cancel or decrease your FSA election to zero due to a status change, your account ends and you may only be reimbursed for expenses incurred up to the end of that coverage period.

For more information on Enrolling or Making Changes to your Flexible Spending Account(s), visit <http://www.dhrm.virginia.gov> or see your agency's Benefits Administrator.

### What is My Coverage Period?

Your coverage period for incurring expenses is based on your participation in the program. If you make a permitted mid-plan year election change it may affect your coverage period. For a Health FSA, a mid-plan year election change will result in split periods of coverage, creating more than one coverage period within a plan year with expenses reimbursed from the appropriate coverage period. Money from a previous coverage period can be combined with amounts after a permitted mid-plan year election change. However, expenses incurred before the permitted election change can only be reimbursed from the amount of the balance present in the Health FSA prior to the change.

Mid-plan year election changes are approved only if the change is on account of and corresponds with the event according to the IRS regulations governing the plan.

**Split periods of coverage do not apply to Dependent Care FSAs.**

## What are the IRS Special Consistency Rules Governing Change in Status?

- 1. Loss of Dependent Eligibility** – If a change in your marital or employment status involves a decrease or cessation of your spouse's or dependent's eligibility requirements for coverage due to: your divorce, your spouse's or dependent's death or a dependent ceasing to satisfy eligibility requirements, you may decrease or cancel coverage only for the individual involved. You cannot decrease or cancel any other individual's coverage under these circumstances.
- 2. Gain Coverage Eligibility Under Another Employer's Plan** – If you, your spouse or your dependent gains eligibility for coverage under another employer's plan as a result of a change in marital or employment status, you may cease or decrease that individual's coverage if that individual gains coverage, or has coverage increased under the other employer's plan.
- 3. Dependent Care Expenses** – You may change or terminate your Dependent Care FSA election when a Change in Status (CIS) event affects (i) eligibility for coverage under an employer's plan, or (ii) eligibility of dependent care expenses for the tax exclusion available under IRC § 129.

Review the FSA FAQs at [benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem](https://benefitadminsolutions.com/anthem) for information on rules governing coverage periods and IRS Special Consistency Rules.

## When Coverage Ends

### Health FSAs

If you experience an event affecting your active employment status, such as termination of employment, unpaid leave or retirement, you may qualify to continue to contribute to your Health FSA on an after-tax basis. Contact your agency Benefits Administrator within 60 calendar days of the event to discuss continuation of your Health FSA through Extended Coverage.

If you do not elect to continue your participation in the Health FSA through Extended Coverage, in most cases your participation in the program will end the last day of the month in which your active employment status changed. If you do elect to continue participation in the Health FSA through Extended Coverage, you will make after-tax monthly contributions to your Health FSA along with the administrative fee. This will allow you to receive reimbursements on eligible health care expenses incurred during your coverage period. Your Health FSA coverage will not be continued beyond the plan year in which the Extended Coverage qualifying event occurred.

### Dependent Care FSAs

You cannot continue contributing to your Dependent Care FSA under Extended Coverage. You can, however, continue to request reimbursement for eligible expenses (which were incurred while you were actively at work) until you exhaust your account balance or your run-out period ends.

## Appeals

### To Appeal a Denied Dependent Care FSA Claim

If you feel your claim was denied in error, you have the right to file an appeal by writing a letter that explains why you believe the claim should be approved.

Your appeal may be submitted in writing and mailed to:

**Anthem FSA  
Claim Appeals  
PO Box 224604  
Dallas, TX 75222-4604**

- Your appeal must be received within 180 days of the date you receive notice that your claim was denied.
- You will be notified of the decision regarding your appeal in writing by Anthem FSA within 30 days of receipt of your written appeal.

The appeal decision on review is the Third Party Administrator's (Anthem FSA) final decision. If you choose to appeal this claim again, your employer has the final coverage decision.

- You can request copies of all documents and information related to your denied claim. These will be provided at no charge.

### To Appeal a Denied Health FSA Claim

If you feel your claim was denied in error, you have the right to file an appeal by writing a letter that explains why you believe the claim should be approved.

Your appeal may be submitted in writing and mailed to:

**Anthem FSA  
Claim Appeals  
PO Box 224604  
Dallas, TX 75222-4604**

- Your appeal must be received within 180 days of the date you receive notice that your claim was denied.
- You are welcome to submit additional information related to your claim along with your appeal, such as: written comments, documents, records, a letter from your health practitioner indicating medical necessity of the denied product or service, and any other information you feel will support your claim.

### Appeal Review Process for FSA Claims

- Your appeal will be reviewed by a person who was not involved with the initial claim denial and who is not a subordinate of any person who was.

- The review will be a fresh look at your claim and appeal without deference to the initial denial and will take into account all information submitted with your claim and/or appeal.
- You will be notified of the decision regarding your appeal in writing by Anthem FSA within 30 days of receipt of your written appeal.

The appeal decision on review is the Third Party Administrator's (Anthem FSA) final decision. After the Anthem FSA appeal procedures have been exhausted, you may request an appeal with the Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM).

Your appeal should be submitted in writing to the Director of DHRM. Appeals to the Director must be filed within four (4) months of the notice of the adverse determination. To file such an appeal, you or your authorized representative must submit the following information to the Director of DHRM:

- Your full name
- Your identification number
- Your address
- Your telephone number
- A statement of the adverse decision you are appealing
- What specific remedy you are seeking in filing this appeal

You may download an appeals form at [dhrm.virginia.gov](http://dhrm.virginia.gov)

To appeal by traditional mail, send your request to the following address:

**Director, Virginia Department of Human Resource Management  
101 N. 14th Street – 12th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219**

Please mark the envelope:

**Confidential – Appeal Enclosed.**

To use e-mail, send your request to [appeals@dhrm.virginia.gov](mailto:appeals@dhrm.virginia.gov)

To use facsimile, fax your request to **1-804-786-0356**.

You have the right to submit written comments, documents, records, and other information supporting your claim. The appeal will take into account all information that you submit, regardless of whether it was submitted or considered in the initial determination.

DHRM does not accept appeals for matters in which the sole issue is disagreement with policies, rules, regulations, contract or law. If you are unsure whether a determination can be appealed, contact the Office of Health Benefits at **1-804-225-3642** or **1-888-642-4414**.

You are responsible for providing DHRM with all information necessary to review your request. You will be allowed to submit any additional information you wish to have considered in this review, and you will have the opportunity to explain, in person or by telephone, why you think the determination should be overturned.

These appeals will be decided by the Director of DHRM, who will render a written decision. If the decision is not in your favor, you have the right to further appeal through the Administrative Process Act. The circuit court ruling is binding on all parties. The Virginia Administrative Process Act addresses court review of administrative decisions at Va. Code §2.2-4025 through Va. Code §2.2-4030. Part 2A of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court addresses appeals through the Administrative Process Act.

## Extended Coverage

### What is continuation coverage?

The right to continuation of coverage was created for private employers by federal law through the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), and these rights are reflected in the continuation coverage provisions of the Public Health Service Act which covers employees of state and local governments. Federal law requires that most group health plans, including Health FSAs, give employees and their families the opportunity to continue their health care coverage when there is a "qualifying event" that would result in a loss of coverage under an employer's plan.

### How long will continuation coverage last?

#### For Health FSAs:

If you have not already received as reimbursement the maximum benefit available under the Health FSA for the coverage period, you may continue your Health FSA (on a post-tax basis) only for the remainder of the plan year in which your qualifying event occurs. For example, if you elected a Health FSA benefit of \$1,000 for the plan year and have received only \$200 in reimbursement, you may continue your Health FSA for the remainder of the plan year or until such time that you incur expenses to receive the maximum Health FSA benefit of \$1,000.

However, if the Health FSA is overspent, continuation of coverage is not available.

To determine whether a participant's account is overspent/underspent you must look at three variables.

- Annual Election
- Total amount of reimbursed claims before the qualifying event date
- Total COBRA FSA maximum premium amount through the end of the plan year

If the Available Balance (Annual Election minus Reimbursed Claims) is less than the maximum premium, then the account is overspent.

If you stop working for your employer or you lose your FSA eligibility, your plan participation and your pre-tax contributions will end automatically. Expenses for services you have after your FSA account termination date will only be eligible if you elect Extended Coverage.

## When and How Must Payment for Continuation Coverage Be Made?

### First Payment for Continuation Coverage

If you elect continuation coverage, you do not have to send any payment for continuation coverage with the Extended Coverage Election Form. However, you must make your first payment for continuation coverage within 45 days after the date of your election. (This is the date the Election Notice is post-marked, if mailed.) If you do not make your first payment for continuation coverage within the 45-day period, you will lose all continuation coverage rights under the Plan.

Your first payment must cover the cost of continuation coverage from the time your coverage under the Plan would have otherwise terminated up to the time you make the first payment. You are responsible for making sure that the amount of your first payment is enough to cover this entire period.

### Periodic Payments for Continuation Coverage:

After you make your first payment for continuation coverage, you will be required to pay for continuation coverage for each subsequent month of coverage. Under the Plan, these periodic payments for continuation coverage are due on the first day of each month. If you make a periodic payment on or before its due date, your coverage under the Plan will continue for that coverage period without any break.

### Grace Periods for Periodic Payments:

Although periodic payments are due on the dates shown above, you will be given a grace period of 30 days to make each periodic payment. Your continuation coverage will be provided for each coverage period as long as payment for that coverage period is made before the end of the grace period for that payment. If you pay a periodic payment later than its due date but during its grace period, your coverage under the Plan will be suspended as of the due date and then retroactively reinstated (going back to the due date) when the periodic payment is made. This means that any claim you submit for benefits while your coverage is suspended may be denied and may have to be resubmitted once your coverage is reinstated.

If you fail to make a periodic payment before the end of the grace period for that payment, you will lose all rights to continuation coverage under the Plan.

## For More Information

This Extended Coverage section does not fully describe continuation coverage or other rights under the Plan. More information about continuation coverage and your rights under the Plan is available from your employer. You can get a copy of the Extended Coverage General Notice from your agency's Benefits Administrator or the **Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM)** at [dhrm.virginia.gov](http://dhrm.virginia.gov).

For more information about your continuation of coverage rights, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit the EBSA website at [dol.gov/ebsa](http://dol.gov/ebsa).

## Special Notices

Upon your initial enrollment in the Health Flexible Spending Account, you should receive from your agency Benefits Administrator a copy of the Office of Health Benefits Notice of Privacy Practices and an Extended Coverage (COBRA) General Notice. If you do not receive these notices, please contact your benefits office or visit the DHRM website at [dhrm.virginia.gov](http://dhrm.virginia.gov) to obtain a copy.





## Commonwealth of Virginia

