



Howard County Public School System

Get reimbursed for out-of-pocket healthcare and child/aged adult day care expenses with tax free dollars!

MAXIMIZE YOUR INCOME!

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) allow you to pay certain healthcare and dependent care expenses with pre-tax money. You will not pay any Federal, State or FICA taxes on funds placed in the Plan. You will save approximately \$27.65 to \$37.65 on every \$100 you place in the Plan. The amount of your savings will depend on your Federal tax bracket.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation in the plan begins on January 1, 2026 and ends on December 31, 2026. You will be eligible to join the Plan if you are regular employees working 17.5 hours or more per week will be eligible to join the plan on the first of the month following date of hire. Those employees having a qualifying event are eligible to enroll within 30 days of the qualifying event. Deductions begin on the first pay period following your Plan start date. You must complete an enrollment to participate in the Flexible Spending Accounts each year during the enrollment period. If an enrollment is not completed during open enrollment, you will not be enrolled in the Plan and you will not be able to join until the next Plan Year or if you have a qualifying event.

ELECTION CHANGES

Election changes are only allowed if you experience one of the following qualifying events:

- Marriage or divorce
- Birth or adoption
- Involuntary loss of spouse's medical or dental coverage
- Death of dependent (child or spouse)
- Unpaid FMLA or Non-FMLA leave
- Change in dependent care providers

REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

All manual or paper claims received in the office of Flexible Benefit Administrators, Inc. will be processed within one week via check or direct deposit. You may also use your Benefits Card to pay for expenses. Please refer to the Benefits Card section for details.

ONLINE ACCESS

Flexible Benefit Administrators, Inc. provides online account access for all FSA participants. Please visit their website at:

<https://fba.wealthcareportal.com/> to view the following features:

- **FSA Login** – View account transactions, create account alerts and download participation forms.
- **FSA Educational Tools** – FSA calculator: estimate how much you can save by utilizing an FSA.

THE HEALTHCARE ACCOUNT IS A PRE-FUNDED ACCOUNT

This means that you can submit a claim for medical expenses on the first day of the Plan Year and you will be reimbursed your total claim amount up to your annual election. The funds that you are pre-funded will be recovered as deductions which are taken from your paycheck on a pre-tax basis.

Contribution Limits: The maximum you may place in this account for the Plan Year is \$3,300.

HEALTHCARE REIMBURSEMENT

With this account, you can pay for your out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for yourself, your spouse and all your tax dependents for healthcare services that are incurred during your Plan Year and while an active participant. Eligible expenses are those incurred for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or for affecting any structure or function of the body.

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE HEALTH CARE EXPENSES

Fees/Co-Pays/Deductibles For:

- Acupuncture
- Prescription eyeglasses/reading glasses/Contact lens and supplies/
- Eye exams/
- Laser eye surgery
- Physician
- Ambulance
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Anesthetist
- Hospital
- Chiropractor
- Laboratory/
- diagnostic
- Fertility treatments
- Surgery
- Dental/
- Orthodontic fees
- Obstetrician
- X-Rays
- Eye exams
- Prescription drugs
- Artificial limbs & teeth
- Orthopedic shoes/
- inserts
- Therapeutic care for drug and alcohol addiction
- Vaccinations & immunizations
- Mileage
- Take-home screening kits
- Diabetic supplies
- Routine physicals
- Oxygen
- Physical therapy
- Hearing aids and batteries
- Medical equipment
- Antacids
- Pain relievers
- Allergy & Sinus Medication

OVER-THE-COUNTER EXPENSES

Examples of medications and drugs that may be purchased in reasonable quantities with a prescription:

- Acne Treatment
- Humidifiers
- Multivitamins
- Herbal Supplements
- Baby Formula
- Fiber Supplements

DAY CARE/AGED ADULT CARE REIMBURSEMENT

The Day Care/Aged Adult Care FSA allows you to pay for day care expenses for your qualified dependent with pre-tax dollars. Eligible Dependent Care expenses are expenses you must pay for the care of an eligible dependent so that you and your spouse can work. Eligible dependents, as revised under Section 152 of the Code by the Working Families Tax Act of 2005, are defined as either dependent children or dependent relatives that you claim as dependents on your taxes. Refer to the Employee Guide for more details. Eligible dependents are further defined as:

- Under age 13
- Physically or mentally unable to care for themselves such as:
 - Disabled spouse
 - Children who became disabled prior to age 19.
 - Elderly parents that live with you

Contribution Limits: The annual maximum contribution may not exceed the lesser of the following:

- \$7,500 (\$3,750 if married filing separately) per household
- Your wages for the year or your spouse's if less than above
- Maximum is reduced by spouse's contribution to a Day Care/Aged Adult Care FSA

ELIGIBLE DAY CARE/AGED ADULT CARE EXPENSES

- Au Pair
- Nannies
- Before and After Care
- Day Camps
- Babysitters
- Daycare for an Elderly Dependent
- Daycare for a Disabled Dependent
- Nursery School
- Private Pre School
- Sick Child Center
- Licensed Day Care Centers

Ineligible Expenses

- Overnight camps
- Babysitting for social events
- Food expenses (if separate from dependent care expenses)
- Care provided by children under 19 (or by anyone you claim as a dependent)
- Days your spouse doesn't work (though you may still have to pay the provider)
- Kindergarten expenses are ineligible as an expense because it is primarily educational, regardless if it is half or full day, private, public, state mandated or voluntary.
- Transportation, books, clothing, food, entertainment and registration fees are ineligible if these expenses are shown separately on your bill.
- Expenses incurred while on a leave of absence or vacation.

HOW TO RECEIVE REIMBURSEMENT

To obtain a reimbursement from your Flexible Spending Account, you must complete a Claim Form. This form is available to you on our website. You must attach a receipt or bill from the service provider which includes all the pertinent information regarding the expense:

- Date of service
- Patient's name
- Amount charged
- Provider's name
- Nature of the expense
- Amount covered by insurance (if applicable)

Canceled checks, bankcard receipts, credit card receipts and credit card statements are NOT acceptable forms of documentation. You are responsible for paying your healthcare or dependent care provider directly.

HOW THE FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN WORKS

	Without Flex Benefits	With Flex Benefits
Gross Monthly Income	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Eligible Pre-Tax employer medical insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
Eligible Pre-Tax Medical Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00
Eligible Pre-Tax Dependent Child Care Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00
Taxable Income	\$ 2500.00	\$ 1900.00
Federal Tax (15%)	\$ 375.00	\$ 285.00
State Tax (5.75%)	\$ 143.75	\$ 109.25
FICA Tax (7.65%)	\$ 191.25	\$ 145.35
After-Tax employer medical insurance	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00
After-Tax medical expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00
After-Tax dependent child care expenses	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.00
Monthly Spendable Income	\$ 1190.00	\$ 1360.40

By taking advantage of the Flexible Benefit Plan this employee was able to increase his/her spendable income by \$170.40 every month! This means an annual tax savings of \$2,044.80. Remember, with the FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN, the better you plan the more you save!

FORFEITING FUNDS

Plan carefully! Unused funds will be forfeited back to your employer as governed by the IRS's "use-it-or-lose-it" rule. Your employer has elected to adopt the IRS offered 2 month 15-day grace period. Please see the Employee Guide for more information.

HOW TO ENROLL IN OUR FSA PLAN

Step 1

Carefully estimate your eligible Healthcare and Day Care/Aged Adult Care expenses for the upcoming Plan Year. Then use our online FSA Educational Tools located at <https://fba.wealthcareportal.com/> to help you determine your total expenses for the Plan Year.

Step 2

Complete your enrollment during the open enrollment period, which instructs payroll to deduct a certain amount of money for your expenses. This amount will be contributed on a pre-tax basis from your paychecks to your FSA. Remember the amount you elect will be set aside before any Federal, State, and FICA taxes are calculated.

BENEFITS CARD

The Benefits Card can be used as a direct payment method for eligible expenses incurred at approved service providers and merchants. Using your card allows you instant access to your funds with no out-of-pocket expense. Please keep all your itemized receipts. Flexible Benefit Administrators, Inc. may request documentation to substantiate Benefits Card transactions to determine eligibility of an expense. Benefits Cards are available upon request of the account holder for dependents over the age of 18. Please contact Flexible Benefit Administrators, Inc. to order additional cards.

